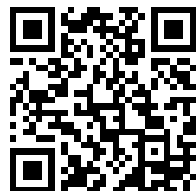

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Gt. Brit. Army - 2d Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys)

History
of
The Royal Scots Greys
(The Second Dragoons)

AUGUST, 1914 — MARCH, 1919

compiled by

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with a foreword by

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G.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.

Colonel, Royal Scots Greys.

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FOREWORD

IT gives me great pleasure to contribute a foreword to the Great War History of the "Greys" to the compilation of which Lt.-Col. S. J. Hardy has devoted so much trouble and research.

It has, I know, been a labour of love for him, and his old comrades of the Great War, and future members of the Regiment will agree with me that he has succeeded in producing a most interesting and valuable account of the doings of the Regiment in the greatest of all the many tests they have been put to in their long and distinguished history.

My personal interest in and affection for the Regiment is due not only because I have the honour to be their full Colonel, but above all, to the fact that they were under my command in the 5th Cavalry Brigade, in which formation they and I passed together through the most critical period in the history of the British Army—the great retreat in 1914 and up to the end of the first battle of Ypres, during which the Expeditionary Force, ludicrously small among the great masses of continental armies, struggled desperately against overwhelmingly superior forces and superior gun power, and emerged successfully owing to their high state of training and splendid morale.

In the case of the Greys, their high state of efficiency was admittedly due to their gallant and

lamented Commanding Officer, the late Colonel C. B. Bulkeley-Johnson, than whom no better officer ever rode at the head of a Regiment of Horse.

Times have changed, and there are many who say that the days of cavalry are over—I do not agree with them. Every new invention in Sea or Land Warfare produces a demand on the part of their protagonists for the immediate abolition of the old and proved methods and weapons.

Fortunately the future of the Army is in wise hands who will see that such changes as are made are fully tested before being irrevocably adopted. I believe myself that the day of cavalry is not over, but that the new inventions will only add power to it, and enable it to cope with the difficulties science has placed in its path.

The "Greys" are fortunate in so much that their position in the cavalry list assures them that they will be one of the last to disappear if such is decreed—I hope and feel that it will not, and I know that if war comes again a new and far more formidable cavalry will find its due place in it, and that the Regiment will again prove, in whatever shape they find themselves, that they are :—

"Second to None"

PHILIP W. CHETWODE
General.

Colonel, Royal Scots Greys

LONDON,

September, 1928.

The Scots Greys in France and Flanders, 1914-1919

CHAPTER I.

**3rd August
to
19th August
1914**

**MOBILISATION
AND
ARRIVAL IN FRANCE**

CHAPTER I.

Mobilization and arrival in France.

THE events leading up to the entry of the British Empire into the Great European War of 1914-18 may be briefly summarized as follows. In the middle of July, 1914, the heir-apparent to the Austro-Hungarian throne was murdered at Serajevo. Persons of Serbian nationality were implicated in this crime, and the result was an ultimatum from Austria-Hungary to Serbia. Backed and encouraged by Germany, Austria made this ultimatum so strong that it was impossible for Serbia to yield and at the same time to retain any dignity as an independent Nation.

The attack on Serbia was regarded by Russia as a threat to all the Slav races, and she therefore gave the order to mobilize. Thereupon France was bound to enter the conflict by the terms of her alliance with Russia.

Germany, in order to attack France, thought it necessary to violate the neutrality of Belgium. This neutrality had been guaranteed by Great Britain as well as by France and Germany, so that our sense of honour as well as our instinct of self-preservation compelled us to declare war. On August 4th mobilization was ordered.

The Expeditionary Force despatched in the first instance numbered some 120,000 men under the

command of Field Marshal Sir John French, and was composed as under :—

First Corps. (1st and 2nd Divisions.)

Second Corps. (3rd and 5th Divisions.)

Cavalry Division. (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Cavalry Brigades.)

5th Cavalry Brigade.

This force, small as it was, included practically the whole of the Regular Army serving at home, and had been brought to a high pitch of organization and efficiency.

That part of it which most particularly concerns us is the 5th Cavalry Brigade, commanded by Brigadier-General Sir Philip Chetwode, and consisting of the Twelfth Lancers at Norwich, the Twentieth Hussars at Colchester, and of the Royal Scots Greys, at this time quartered at York under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Bulkeley-Johnson. There were also included in the Brigade "J" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery from Aldershot, the 4th Field Troop, Royal Engineers from the Curragh, and the 5th Cavalry Field Ambulance.

AUGUST 8th.

On mobilization, a regiment has to be brought up to its war establishment, thus necessitating the addition to its ranks of large numbers of men and horses, and the drawing and issuing of numerous stores and equipment. Everything, however, worked with the greatest smoothness, and by the evening of August 8th the mobilization of the Regiment was complete. The extra horses required were supplied by the Remount Department of the Northern Command, and, as many of these were purchased from the neighbouring hunts, and most

of the officers of the Regiment sold their hunters to the Government at remount price, they were of very good quality. Owing to the fact that a large number of them were coloured horses, each officer was ordered to include one coloured horse among his chargers.

AUGUST 15th.

Under the general mobilization scheme, the Greys did not leave York until August 15th, so in the interval between the completion of mobilization and this date, Colonel Bulkeley-Johnson took the opportunity, by means of squadron and regimental training on the Knavesmire, to ensure that both the new horses and the reservists, who had been selected to complete the establishment, should get thoroughly shaken down into their places. The entrainment of the Regiment commenced at midnight, and the aspect of the huge station, so strangely silent, its ordinary lighting supplemented with huge gas flares, brought home to the minds of many, in a way that they had been unable to realize amid the familiar surroundings of barrack and parade ground, that they were indeed entering on a very great and wonderful adventure. By dawn, the Greys, in four long trains, one for each squadron and one for regimental headquarters and the machine gun section, had left York behind them and were well on their way to Southampton.

The Officers and Staff who left York with the Regiment were as follows :—

HEADQUARTERS.

Lt.-Col. C. B. BULKELEY-JOHNSON, *Commanding.*

Major W. F. COLLINS, *2nd in Command.*

Captain E. J. HARDY, *Adjutant.*

Lieut. D. COUTTS, *Quartermaster.*

HEADQUARTERS—*Continued.*

Lieut. H. W. Viscount EBRINGTON, *Signal Officer.*

Captain J. P. GLANVILLE, *R.A.M.C.*

Lieut. J. GOING, *A.V.C.*

R.S.M. J. WILSON.

R.Q.M.S. F. C. STEEL.

F.Q.M.S. W. MUIR.

and 31 other ranks.

MACHINE GUN SECTION.

Lieut. G. F. A. PIGOT-MOODIE.

and 29 other ranks.

" A " SQUADRON.

Major A. LAWSON.

Captain W. LONG, *D.S.O.*

Lieut. H. DENISON PENDER.

Lieut. W. H. B. CALLANDER.

Lieut. W. S. CORNWALLIS.

Lieut. A. A. EARL OF LEVEN AND MELVILLE.

S.S.M. J. TELFORD.

S.Q.M.S. J. McWHANNEL.

and 150 other ranks.

" B " SQUADRON.

Major A. G. SEYMOUR.

Captain W. M. DUGUID McCOMBIE.

Captain M. BORWICK.

Lieut. H. N. SCOTT-ROBSON.

2nd Lieut. G. J. R. COOPER.

2nd Lieut. E. R. F. COMPTON.

S.S.M. J. McNAUGHTEN.

S.Q.M.S. N. MURRAY.

and 150 other ranks.

THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS

" C " SQUADRON.

Major F. SWETENHAM.

Captain S. J. HARDY.

Captain T. E. ESTCOURT.

Lieut. J. G. C. EARL OF St. GERMAN.

Lieut. J. G. CRABBE.

2nd Lieut. Sir G. G. S. BAILLIE, Bart.

S.S.M. R. CURRIE.

S.Q.M.S. W. AUDIS.

and 150 other ranks.

***Total Strength.* 545 all ranks.**

Captain Prince Arthur of Connaught and Captain E. H. Bonham were supernumerary to the establishment when the Regiment left England, being employed on the Staff, and so could not go out with it, while Captains Pickering and Readman, being Adjutants of the Lanark and Hampshire Yeomanry respectively, had to remain with these regiments.

Major Seymour had broken a bone in his foot just before the Regiment left York, and found himself unable to bear the strain of remaining mounted for many hours together, so Captain McCombie was virtually in command of " B " Squadron, and after a few days in France, Major Seymour having to be invalided home, Captain Borwick, who left England as troop leader, became 2nd in command of the squadron.

In " C " Squadron, Captain S. J. Hardy, who had just finished his time as Adjutant when war broke out, was selected as billeting officer to the Brigade, and in this capacity, went to France some days before the Regiment.

AUGUST 17th and 19th

On arrival at Southampton, the Greys at once embarked on the S.S. "Blackwell" and S.S. "Californian" for "a destination unknown," and after an uneventful crossing arrived at Havre on the morning of the 17th August. They spent two days at Havre where French interpreters—one to each troop—joined the Regiment, and then entrained on the 19th for Aulnoye, whence they marched into billets at Beaufort, a small village about 4 miles south of Maubeuge. Here, as in South Africa some fifteen years previously, it was deemed necessary to dye the grey horses, for though a grey horse is not, necessarily, more conspicuous than one of any other colour, yet the presence of a large number of grey horses together would give the enemy very valuable information, as knowing that the Greys were in front of them, they would be able to deduce the presence of many other units, according to the brigade, division, or even the corps, to which the Regiment, at that moment, might happen to be attached. The dyeing was done with permanganate of potash. This chemical turns the horses approximately a chestnut colour which will last for about a month, provided the horses are not sweated and the weather is dry, but tends to wash out in about a fortnight should the weather be very wet.

On August 20th, the Mayor of Beaufort, accompanied by all the school children, presented an address to the Colonel, and a small girl handed him a bouquet.

The Scots Greys in France and Flanders, 1914-1919

CHAPTER II.

20th August
to
5th September
1914

**THE RETREAT
FROM MONS**

CHAPTER II.

The Retreat from Mons.

The war opened, as far as the British Army was concerned, with a two days' advance into Belgium to the line of the Mons-Condé Canal. The object of this advance was to get up into line with our Allies the French. But no sooner had it been completed, on the evening of August 23rd, than Sir John French received two most unpleasant items of information. The first was that the Fifth French Army had already begun to retire from Charleroi, thus uncovering our right: the second was that the German strength opposite to us was not two Corps as had been hitherto supposed, but four, one of which was engaged in a turning movement round our left. It was essential to retire at once from such a dangerous situation.

The operation known as the Retreat from Mons, begun on August 23rd and only concluded on September 5th, was conducted in two main columns, the 1st Corps on the east, and the 2nd Corps on the west. The disorganization inseparable from such a sudden reverse of front, the long marches necessary to extricate ourselves from the critical situation in which we were placed, and the large number of unfit reservists in the ranks, all combined to make the retirement an extremely hazardous undertaking. It was further complicated by the fact that the direction of the roads leading past both

sides of the Forêt de Mormal, created a gap between the two columns across which all communication was for several days lost. In such circumstances the service of protecting the rear of the retiring columns, nearly always allotted to cavalry by reason of their mobility and comparative immunity from fatigue, becomes a duty, arduous indeed, but of the very highest importance. The 5th cavalry brigade, joined later by the 3rd cavalry brigade, was employed on every day of the retreat in protecting the rear of the eastern column, the 1st Corps. The cavalry division meanwhile was similarly employed with the western column, the 2nd Corps.

Before passing to these operations however, it is necessary to narrate the events of the advance into Belgium. During this phase the cavalry formed a screen in front of the army, the 5th cavalry brigade being on the right. The British Expeditionary Force formed the left of the whole line.

AUGUST 21st

On August 21st the advance began, and the Regiment marched from its billets at Beaufort to Hautmont, and thence to a point on the Maubeuge-Avesnes road which was the rendez-vous for the 5th cavalry brigade. Here we met for the first time our comrades of the 12th Lancers and 20th Hussars with whom we were destined to serve, in the same brigade, for the whole duration of the war. For the task of covering the advance of the army over the River Sambre, the brigade was placed under the orders of the cavalry divisional commander, General Allenby, who directed it to march on his right flank, in order to keep touch with the French Fifth Army under General Lanrezac.

Our route took us by the south side of Maubeuge through Jeumont to the Belgian frontier at Erquelinnes.



Here, German cavalry having been reported as moving from Nivelles on Mons, we were ordered to march as quickly as possible to Binche. All the usual precautions were taken during this march, but no Germans were encountered. The brigade took up a line of outposts at Binche, facing roughly north-east, with the 20th Hussars on the right, Scots Greys on the left, and the 12th Lancers in brigade reserve. "B" squadron under Captain McCombie held the crossing over the Samme river at Binche, and "C" squadron under Major Swetenham held the crossing lower down on the same stream at Péronnes, with the 3rd troop (Lieut. Crabbe) acting as a detached post at Mauraige about two miles further west. By 6 p.m. all bridges had been barricaded. Regimental headquarters, together with "A" squadron in support, were at Waudrez about a mile to the west of Binche on the Binche-Mons road. There was no question now about where the enemy were. To the northward, as far as the eye could reach, the blaze of fires was reflected in the sky. The policy of frightfulness, which had been foreshadowed in so many German text books on war, had already been begun.

AUGUST 22nd

On the morning of the 22nd August, Lord Leven, who with his troop had been posted as a standing patrol at a farm two or three miles north of Péronnes on the road to Nivelles, rejoined "A" squadron. He had reconnoitred the country farther to the north and reported that large numbers of enemy cavalry were on the Nivelles road, and that they were believed to form part of a German cavalry division. Patrols, that had been sent out at dawn to Seneffe and Godarville, brought back similar information, Lieut. Callander's

patrol being the first to gain contact with the Germans at Haine St. Paul near La Louvière. The position that was being held by the Greys was merely a night-outpost line, and Captain S. J. Hardy had discovered on a previous evening that the Samme was no obstacle by day and could be crossed anywhere. The Brigadier had, of course, made dispositions for holding a line further south in the event of an attack being pressed home, but, time being such an essential factor in all operations of war, was not averse to the enemy being delayed on this forward line if it were feasible, and left the matter entirely to the discretion of Colonel Bulkeley-Johnson. About 10 a.m. two Uhlans, who formed the advance point of a patrol, rode right up to within twenty yards of the bridge over the stream at Péronnes, apparently without discovering that it was held. Lord St. German's troop were in the middle of an exciting game of "House" when the sentry gave the warning. They rushed to their positions, opened fire, but missed; the only "casualty" being one man who failed to fire accurately through his loop-hole, the bullet knocking off a chip of stone which cut him in the face. During the morning other isolated patrols, either uninformed of or undeterred by their comrades' experience, continued to ride quietly down to the barricades, and in all sixteen to eighteen men and horses were accounted for. A patrol of four men sent out by Lieut. Crabbe under Pte. Dykes* met a German patrol of 17 men. Hiding in a wood, the enemy were allowed to pass. Suddenly Lieut. Pigot Moodie opened on them with his machine guns at a range of about a mile, and with the first burst hit every man. Pte. Dykes' patrol nearly got hit by the overshies, but they

* Pte. Dykes afterwards became a sergeant, and was badly wounded, losing an arm. He gained the D.C.M. and M.M.

were able to obtain identifications and brought them back.

Meanwhile the attack on the crossing was being developed by Jaegers, the name given to the light infantry of which a battalion is attached to each German cavalry division. These advanced along each side of the road in rushes of from ten to fifteen yards, with a four to six yards interval, quite regardless of the ground, as if doing a parade movement. They were very soon brought to a standstill by the defenders, who had constructed most excellent barricades with a good field of fire, and were supported by the machine guns under Lieut. Pigot Moodie, which were very well posted in a brewery on the south side of the bridge. The enemy, however, continued to bring up fresh forces and started to shell the village. He had been delayed and forced to deploy, and therefore to hold on until he worked round the flanks was only to suffer needless casualties in evacuating the village without gaining any further advantage. The country was absolutely open on each side of Péronnes, and it was only the enemy's lack of enterprise, and the confident demeanour of the Greys, who were kept well posted as to the situation by their patrols, that had kept him back so long. Consequently "A" squadron, which had hitherto remained in support, was now brought into a position covering the gap between Binche and Péronnes, and under cover of its fire, "C" squadron was withdrawn to Estinne-au-Mont, but, owing to the messenger to its third troop getting shot, that troop only retired about an hour later when fetched by S.S.M. Currie. The German regiment in front of this troop marched to the edge of the village, piled arms in a field, and started preparing their dinners without any protection to their front. Lieut. Crabbe was just preparing a plan how,

after his men had eaten the stew being prepared for them by the inhabitants of the village, they should crawl up, fire fifteen rounds rapid, and then beat a hasty retreat. Perhaps luckily just at this moment S.S.M. Currie arrived and suggested to the troop leader that it would be more expedient for him to retire than stir up a hornets' nest. This advice was taken but not acted upon until the very excellent stew had been eaten.

It was now 2 p.m. and one squadron of the Greys had delayed a whole cavalry division for about four hours. Just before the retirement began, Lord Leven was wounded in the thigh. It was not considered safe to move him back with the squadron, so he was taken to a hospital, where he was afterwards taken prisoner. He was left in Belgium, however, instead of being sent to Germany, and subsequently managed to escape to England and rejoined the Regiment. The enemy deployed an infantry division to take the line of the Samme, and Lord Leven estimated the German casualties in front of the Greys to be about 250.

The Germans never made any serious attempt to advance beyond the Binche-Mons road, to the south of which the 12th Lancers were in position. Possibly this road was the limit of their objective, or else they thought that the force opposed was far stronger than was actually the case, for although it was still early afternoon, they made no further effort, and the brigade remained quite unmolested.

During the afternoon the cavalry division moved off westwards to cover the exposed left flank of the army. The 5th cavalry brigade consequently moved to its left to take the place of the 3rd cavalry brigade, and at the same time ceased to be under the orders of the cavalry



division. At nightfall an outpost line was taken up on the high ground about four miles south-west of Binche, the Greys regimental headquarters being at Haulchin.

This first encounter between the Greys and the enemy cavalry, although of no very great importance, has been treated at some length because it brings out the British superiority, both in initiative and in practical training for war, a superiority which became more emphasised in each encounter between the two cavalries, and which accounts for the astonishing success with which five cavalry brigades, a mere handful compared with the forces that the Germans had at their disposal, managed to carry out the extremely difficult rôle that they were called upon to play during the days of the retreat.

AUGUST 23rd

At dawn on the morning of the battle of Mons, the brigade, now under the orders of the General Officer Commanding 1st Corps, was in a position of readiness close to the junction of the Mons-Beaumont and Binche-Bavay roads, but although heavy gunfire was heard all day in the direction of Mons, it was not called upon to act in strength, and at dusk was moved into billets in the vicinity of Givry, regimental headquarters being in a sugar factory to the south-west of that place.

AUGUST 24th

At 4 a.m. on Monday the 24th, the brigade was moved up to within three miles of Mons and took up a position to cover the retirement of the 2nd Division. The Scots Greys were on the right, the 12th Lancers in the centre, and the 20th Hussars on the left. "B" squadron held the village of Vellereille-le-Sec, a rather isolated position on the extreme right of the line: "A"

squadron held the high ground immediately to the east of Harveng, while "C" squadron held that village itself. The brigade was exposed to heavy shrapnel fire all day, but did not suffer very serious casualties. It was the constant use of small officers' patrols, and the boldness with which they were handled that, more than anything else, kept our casualties so low. The enemy's patrols were by this means prevented from getting up close enough to obtain any accurate information about our dispositions and strength, and consequently the German advance was very slow. Nevertheless, by about mid-day, the enemy had worked up pretty close to the centre and right centre of the position, and as, by this time, the infantry had got well back along their line of retreat, the order was given to fall back on the second position, about three miles to the rear.

"B" squadron did not, unfortunately, at once conform to this movement, and, when they did retire, Sergeant McTaggart, with about 17 men of his troop, keeping too far out to the right, entered Maubeuge, and, being unable to leave, was captured when that place fell. A similar fate overtook the officers' servants and baggage animals of the 12th Lancers, which included many polo ponies which had been played in the winning team in the inter-regimental that year. These were ordered to keep well to the right so as not to interfere with the fighting troops who were falling back in a south-westerly direction, and, taking the road to Maubeuge, were also captured.

The new position was held until about 7 p.m., when the infantry outposts being in position, the cavalry fell back through the infantry billeted round La Longueville, to their billets at Hargnies. With the exception of

Sergeant McTaggart's troop, the Regiment only lost one man missing, who was afterwards found to have been killed, and two men wounded.

This action was typical of what was to take place during the next six days. As each day broke, the British cavalry were in position ready to take up the burden of keeping the foe at arms length from the retiring infantry. Right through the heat of each long burning day they formed a veil which the Germans strove in vain to pierce, and which fell back before them only to reappear a little farther on as elusive and as impenetrable as ever.

At dusk their place was taken by the sturdy unconquerable British infantry, who, thanks to the efforts of the cavalry, had been able to fall back with unshaken morale and in comparative security, and who made any attempt to break the line by night a practical impossibility. And so the miracle was achieved that although the British army was on the flank and consequently peculiarly exposed to the danger of envelopment, yet, in spite of their enormous numerical superiority, the Germans proved entirely unable to pin their foe, and so compel him to fight a decisive action. Similarly on the right flank the enemy's efforts to separate the British army from the French fifth army entirely failed. That they were foiled in these two endeavours was mainly due to the British cavalry. The German cavalry, as we have seen in the attack on Péronnes, were greatly inferior to their opponents, both in leadership and power of manœuvre. Their movements were practically confined to the roads and, consequently, very seldom could they develop anything beyond a mere frontal attack, which the British, on account of their greater mobility and tactical efficiency,

could easily delay, and which they could evade at will when an attempt was made to press it home.

AUGUST 25th

Before dawn on the 25th the cavalry were again on the move, and took up a position on the high ground north of Hargnies to cover the retirement of the infantry across the Sambre river, and it was past midnight before the Regiment reached their billets near Taisnières, some four miles to the south of that river.

AUGUST 26th

On August 26th the Regiment was employed in the gap between the 1st and 2nd Corps, the latter of which was fighting the battle of Le Cateau. "A" squadron were astride the Landrecies-Catillon road: "C" squadron held the line of the Sambre canal from Ors to Catillon: while "B" squadron was in support. It was possible from the high ground on which "A" squadron was posted to look over the intervening forest and see the flashes and smoke of the guns which were being employed against the 2nd Corps. Some stragglers from the battle actually fell back as far as Catillon, but Lord St. Germans, who was posted there with his troop, induced them to return to their battalion. Later in the day the Regiment was withdrawn to a position on the Landrecies-Guise road, and this retirement was effected without incident. The Regiment held on to their position on the Landrecies road till dusk, when they moved back southwards a farther eight miles to their billets at Hannappes, which they reached between nine and ten in the evening in pouring rain. It was only a thunder shower, however, and while it effectively drenched the men and horses, it did nothing to alleviate the excessive heat that continued throughout the retreat.

**AUGUST 27th**

On August 27th the brigade was entrusted with the duty of protecting the western flank of the 1st Corps during the retirement. The 20th Hussars, who were on the extreme left flank, suffered a certain number of casualties, but the Greys were not seriously engaged, though it was late at night when they got to their billets at Proix on the Oise. The day's march was not more than seven miles as the crow flies, but the duties of a flank guard, with its network of patrols, observation posts, and holding tactical points, come very heavy on the horses, and many of them must have covered quite thirty miles on this day.

AUGUST 28th

On August 28th the brigade formed part of a mixed force of all arms, under General Horne, again acting on the western flank of the 1st Corps. Perhaps, at this point, it would be as well to explain why it was necessary for the 1st Corps, which had the 2nd Corps on its left, to pay so much attention to the guarding of its western flank. The reason was the gap between the two Corps already referred to, which was created in the first instance by the Forêt de Mormal, and which was not satisfactorily closed until after both Corps had passed south of the River Oise. The gap on this day was as much as fifteen miles wide. The Germans, therefore, had four sides, instead of two, from which they could make an enveloping attack on the two main portions of our army.

General Chetwode with his cavalry brigade, had naturally been entrusted with the duty of guarding the exposed flank of the Corps, and was able to employ for this purpose the whole of his force less one squadron of the 20th Hussars which was taken to act as rear-guard

to the infantry. By 4 a.m. his men were on the move, following the right bank of the Oise. The country was very open, and General Chetwode was able to protect himself on the move by holding observation posts and tactical points in such a manner that he never required to have more than a total of two or three squadrons out at any given time, the rest of the brigade being kept concentrated ready for action. By 11 a.m. the infantry, marching on the left bank of the Oise, were well clear of Hamégicourt on their way to La Fere, and their flank being safe, all that General Chetwode had to consider was how to guard their rear from attack and afterwards withdraw his brigade. He had a squadron of the Greys with the machine gun section posted in the copses on the ridge north of the Moy-Cerizy road, and patrols of the Greys and 20th Hussars still further to the north. Brigade headquarters and the 20th Hussars were at La Guinguette farm on the St. Quentin-La Fere road, while the 12th Lancers were in Moy in brigade reserve. At 11.30 a.m. a patrol of the Greys was driven in and the enemy occupied La Folie farm and the ridge to the south of it, thus bringing him into a position about 800 yards from that held by Major Swetenham's squadron, and divided from it by a deep valley. The main road from St. Quentin to La Fere passes the head of this valley at a distance of about 1,000 yards to the west of and commanded by the position held by this squadron. The 2nd troop (Captain Estcourt) and 4th troop (Sir G. Baillie) took up their position behind a hedge. The 3rd troop was in reserve, while the 4th troop (Lord St. Germans) was detached. About 2 p.m. a patrol of the Germans was seen advancing with two squadrons about 800 yards behind. Orders were given to let the patrol come close up. When it was only

about 100 yards away, fire was opened and every man fell. The German main body then dismounted for action on the forward slope at a range of 750 to 800 yards, and sent their led-horses back about 400 yards. These horses were, however, in full view of Lieut. Pigot Moodie and his machine guns, and these, with the help of one section of "J" battery, R.H.A., quickly stampeded them.

Meanwhile General Chetwode had brought the remainder of "J" battery into action, and sent two squadrons of the 12th Lancers round the Greys' right with orders to attack the left flank of the enemy's position on the Folie farm ridge. Covered by the fire of "C" squadron, the Greys, the 12th Lancers charged, while at the same time "J" battery lifted their fire and brought it down on the far side of the ridge. The Greys, under their commanding officer, then formed line, and though the charge was sounded by the Trumpet-Major, there were practically no enemy left, as the 12th Lancers had done their work so thoroughly.* Sir Gawaine Baillie, in spite of the fact that he had a wound through his thumb and five bullets through his clothes, continued to lead and control his troop, and did not even go to have his wound dressed until ordered to do so.

Orders were also sent to the 20th Hussars to advance along the St. Quentin road against the enemy's right flank, but the Colonel of the 20th having already sent one squadron to engage the enemy's artillery to the west of this road, was not able to extricate it in time.

* By one of those curious coincidences that so frequently occur in war, the regiment with which the Greys were engaged proved to be their "opposite number" in the German Army List, being the 2nd Dragoons of the Guard, who, like the Greys, had been honoured by the appointment of a reigning sovereign to be their Colonel-in-Chief, and bore on their appointments the monogram "V.R.I." and were known as "Queen Victoria's Own."

Nevertheless, the success of General Chetwode's attack was very complete. The 12th Lancers rode through and through the Germans and practically annihilated them, only six prisoners being taken.

The remainder of the enemy's forces, subjected to a cross fire from the Greys and "J" battery to their front, and from the 12th Lancers on their left, suffered very severe losses, and were quite unable to organize any counter-attack to restore the fortunes of the day. In fact the extreme quickness and accuracy of the fire of "J" battery, R.H.A., under Major Seligman, was a decisive factor in the situation. General Chetwode, having ascertained that the force that he had engaged was the van-guard of a strong force of all arms under the command of Prince Furstenberg, and having accomplished his mission by bringing its advance to a complete standstill, now decided to retire and withdrew his brigade without molestation.

Unfortunately Major Swetenham of the Greys was killed while directing the fire of his squadron. He was an officer of splendid talents, of the utmost coolness in battle, and beloved by his men. A soldier so exceptionally gifted was bound to have risen to high distinction in the course of the war, and his death was a very serious loss. His place in command of "C" squadron was taken by Captain Long, who was transferred from "A" squadron. Otherwise the casualties in the Regiment, Sir Gawaine Baillie and six other ranks wounded, were not heavy in view of the results achieved. For this action was the culmination of the work done by the brigade since August 24th. The enemy was now no longer pressing close on the heels of the retreating British, and their cavalry had learned that their opponents were their masters both in

offensive and defensive tactics. Thanks to the cavalry, the decision as to where and when an action should be fought was now with the British instead of with the Germans, and the brigade, instead of practically having to fall back fighting through the line of infantry outposts as it did on August 24th, had a fifteen mile march back to the billets at Sinceny where it took up an outpost position for its own protection, being nearer to the German forces than any other unit.

AUGUST 29th

The pressure of the enemy was now so far relaxed that on the 29th, except for a contact squadron which marched out at 2.30 a.m., the brigade did not move till mid-day, when it saddled up and marched northwards some six miles to the high ground between the Oise and the head-waters of the Somme. Here it remained in observation all day, but saw nothing of the enemy, returning at night to its billets at Sinceny. This day was a rest day for the infantry, and the cavalry much appreciated not having to start at their usual early hour, it being the first occasion since the retreat began on which they had breakfasted by daylight or had been able to get a proper wash.

AUGUST 30th

The Greys on August 30th were acting as eastern flank guard covering the rear of the 2nd infantry division. They passed through the forest of St. Gobain and went into billets at Neuville. Again nothing was seen of the enemy, and the cavalry, relieved from the necessity of constant vigilance, were able to obtain a certain amount of rest for men and horses, other than those who were at the moment being actually employed on the duties of protection.

The German troops with which we had been engaged at Mons and Le Cateau belonged to Von Kluck's First Army. After Le Cateau that army moved in a south-westerly direction, which took them nearly clear of the British army and brought them up against General Maunoury's Sixth French Army based on Paris. The Germans so roughly handled by the 5th cavalry brigade on the 28th, were the vanguard of the right column of Von Bulow's army, which had continued after Le Cateau to move nearly due south. Between this army and Von Kluck's a gap had consequently been created of some fourteen miles ; moreover, it was, on the 29th, severely assailed by the Fifth French Army. These circumstances help to account for the slackening of the pressure on the British army.

AUGUST 31st and SEPTEMBER 1st

On the 31st the march was continued practically under peace conditions. A start was not made till 9 a.m., and there was a mid-day halt of two hours. The Aisne had then been crossed just below Soissons, and the brigade was halted on the southern bank of that river. Advantage was taken of this to off-saddle the horses and to allow the men to bathe in the river. The Regiment this night was billeted at Dommiers. During the night, however, news came in that the enemy was beginning to press on again. The transport, which during the last two days had marched comfortably along with the brigade, was at once hurriedly sent off in the middle of the night, and early in the morning patrols were sent out to watch the crossing over the Aisne. The brigade, less the 20th Hussars attached to the 1st infantry brigade, covered the retirement of the 2nd Division. The Greys, together with the 4th (Guards) brigade, were involved in some heavy fighting

to the north of the forest de Retz, in which the Germans who had crossed the Aisne at Pommiers were driven back towards that river. Later, the Germans, reinforced by troops that had crossed at Le Port about 4 miles down stream, counter-attacked in the forest close to Villiers-Cotterets. "B" squadron, the Greys, who were guarding the left flank, held the enemy back until the Guards were in position when it withdrew, but had great difficulty in getting back through the boggy rides to the remainder of the brigade, which had been withdrawn southwards clear of the forest, which was entirely unsuited for the employment of cavalry. The Guards, however, rendered a good account of themselves and the Germans were definitely checked. The brigade that night was billeted at La Villeneuve, about three miles south of the forest de Retz and west of the river Ourcq. On this day we came once more into contact with the troops of Von Kluck who had abandoned his attempt to envelop Paris from the west, and was now marching south-east in the hope of coming down upon the flank of the French Fifth Army.

SEPTEMBER 2nd

On the next day the brigade, which had been rejoined by the 20th Hussars, covered the retirement to the Marne and was billeted at Trilport on the south bank of that river. "C" squadron, the Greys, held the bridge at St. Jean les Jumeaux, about four miles east of Trilport. Here, while the horses were being watered, a German cavalry regiment rode almost into the village. Lieut. Cornwallis' troop opened fire and killed one officer, whereupon the enemy retired. The brigade was responsible for all the crossings in the immense loop that the river forms between these two places, at the latter of which is the last crossing over the Marne



above Meaux. The idea was to interpose the Marne between the Germans and the retreating army. Consequently troops holding the crossings had orders to destroy all boats and other means of getting over the river, while the bridges were to be blown up after they left. "C" squadron were kept busy sinking a number of very picturesque house-boats that they found at St. Jean, which no doubt earlier in the summer had been the delight of some of the wealthy bourgeoisie of Paris. They also collected a lot of huge boulders with which they constructed an enormous barricade across the bridge. Just as they had finished, an aged refugee arrived with a loaded donkey cart. To leave her on the wrong side was unthinkable; it was almost equally impossible to take down and re-erect the barricade; so the old lady with all her goods was lifted bodily over the obstacle and safely dumped down on the other side.

SEPTEMBER 3rd

During September 3rd it was the duty of the 5th cavalry brigade to cover the retirement of various infantry columns passing south eastwards along the south side of the river Marne from Meaux to La Ferté-sous-Jouarre. This was done by holding the high ground north of the river and for this reason these bridges were left intact, the idea being that the last troops over each bridge should see that they were efficiently destroyed. The 5th brigade successfully carried out the work with which they had been entrusted, though with a certain number of casualties among the 20th Hussars who were on the left or more exposed flank of the brigade, and at dusk it crossed the Marne at Ussy, the last bridge over the river below La Ferté-sous-Jouarre. After blowing up the bridge, it trotted back unmolested to the infantry billets at

SEPTEMBER 4th

La Ferté, and so proceeded through them to its own billets at Ru de Vrou, some four miles to the south. Unfortunately all the bridges over the Marne were not so effectively destroyed as that at Ussy, and patrols that were sent out from the brigade at dawn on the next day to watch the crossings, came in contact with the enemy before they reached the river. Consequently the brigade was quickly pushed out to cover the flank and rear of the infantry, but after all were never seriously attacked as the Germans were not in force in the direction of Meaux. The reason for this was explained by a sight which greatly mystified the officers of "C" squadron at Doue where they were protecting the right flank. At Doue there is a conical knoll on which the church stands with an excellent field of view across the high ground to the east on the other side of the Petit Morin. From here could be seen three long columns of Germans, but instead of moving against the British they were moving in a south south-east direction across our front. This, of course, was Von Kluck with his main army, who, having left his 4th reserve corps with a cavalry division to contain the French Sixth Army forming round Paris, was moving to join Von Bulow operating against the French Fifth Army, thinking that the British Army was too negligible as a fighting force to be worth troubling about. Consequently it was only his flank guard with which the British had to deal during September 4th and 5th, and naturally there had been but little difficulty in compelling the enemy to conform to our movements.

After keeping the Germans back all day without any serious fighting, the brigade marched through the infantry billets at Coulommiers to their own billets at

Le Puits, some four miles further to the south-east. Unfortunately the Greys did not get through this day without casualties. Captain Estcourt was sent out with his troop to get into touch with the French cavalry on the right, who were supposed to be at Rebais. As we know now, he was going into a hornets' nest as, in order to reach Rebais, he would have to cross the front of Von Kluck's army. He managed to get information about the French cavalry who had already retired south some hours before, but when he got to Rebais on his way back, he found that he was cut off as the town was already occupied by the Germans, and there were enemy troops on the roads both to the north and south of it. There was just one hope of escape ; the Germans were halted dismounted on each side of the main street and quite unprepared for action. A bold dash down the street before their presence was discovered might enable the Greys to get through. Accordingly, at the head of his men, Captain Estcourt dashed into the street. His horse, however, slipped upon the cobbles and came down with him almost at once, and while he was lying stunned, he was seized and taken prisoner. Of the whole troop, only five men and eight horses escaped back to the Regiment. Captain de Mas-Latrie,* who was French liaison officer with the brigade, and who was co-operating with Captain Estcourt's troop, was also killed.

SEPTEMBER 5th

For the last day or two there had been persistent rumours that the tide was about to turn and on Sept. 5th the short distance of the march, which was entirely unmolested, pointed to the fact that conditions had

* Captain de Mas-Latrie was the son of the Commander of the XVIII Corps, French Fifth Army.



changed. Nevertheless the routine for the cavalry had remained very much the same ever since August 24th. First there was reveille long before dawn, followed by a slow and tedious march northwards along the congested roads, to take up positions to cover the retirement of the infantry piquets, and then came the long harassing day which ever proved too short for all that had to be done, so that generally it was about midnight before the men could seek repose and snatch some two hours' sleep before the wearisome round began again. The result was that the men were about worn out, and even under the considerably improved conditions of the latter days of the retreat had hardly recovered entirely.

Lord French, in "1914," has penned a striking word picture of what the scene was like during a halt in these last days of the retreat, which is of special interest to the Regiment. He describes this scene as follows :—
" They (the troops) were very tired however ; how tired was not fully brought home to me until I came to the 5th cavalry brigade (the Scots Greys, 12th Lancers, 20th Hussars). The whole brigade was dismounted behind some woods on heights. Every man of them, except a small proportion of horse-holders, was lying fast asleep on the ground. Accompanied by the Brigadier (Chetwode) I rode into the midst of the sleeping mass, my horse picking his way through the recumbent figures. They hardly stirred. I was anxious to say a few words to the men and the Brigadier asked me if he should call them up to attention. I said " No, let them rest," adding that I would talk to them for anyone to hear who happened to be awake and not too done up to listen. I thanked them, as they lay there on the ground, for all that they had done ; I told

them of the situation and our hopes of complete victory. A few men tried to struggle up ; others, half awake, leaned on their elbows and drowsily listened. I hardly realised that they had heard anything of what I had said. This particular regiment was the Scots Greys, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Bulkeley-Johnson, who afterwards fell so gallantly at the head of his brigade on the Ancre. Bulkeley-Johnson subsequently told me that every word I had spoken on that occasion was published afterwards in the local papers all over Scotland."

This last sentence enables one to realize how the men succeeded in carrying on.

Later, thanks to Von Kluck's errors, they got some chance of recuperating, and consequently were able to act during the battle of the Marne and the days subsequent to it, with a vigour that must have come as a very unpleasant surprise to that general. It must not be supposed, however, that towards the end of the retreat there was any relaxation of the watchfulness that their duties called for. It was only the numbers that had to be employed on the service of protection that were altered by the changed conditions, and the vigilance of those on duty remained the same. The wakeful horse-holders mentioned by Lord French, represented small bodies of dismounted men who, concealed in the wooded heights above, were guarding against any possibility of surprise.

CHAPTER III.

**6th September
to
15th October
1914**

**THE BATTLE OF THE MARNE
THE ADVANCE TO THE AISNE
AND
THE RACE TO THE SEA**

The Scots Greys in France and Flanders, 1914-1919

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**6th September
to
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**THE BATTLE OF THE MARNE
THE ADVANCE TO THE AISNE
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CHAPTER III.

The Battles of the Marne and the Aisne. and the Race to the Sea.

The south-easterly move of Von Kluck, to which reference has already been made, was undoubtedly one of the decisive incidents, probably also one of the biggest mistakes, of the war. By the evening of September 4th, while he had failed in his original objects of attacking the flank of the French Fifth Army and of getting into close touch with Von Bulow on his left, he had brought his own army well within the angle formed by the British Expeditionary Force and the French armies on either side of us.

Realising that the favourable moment had arrived, General Joffre ordered a general offensive for the morning of September 6th. The Fifth French Army was to advance northwards; the Sixth French Army eastwards; the British Army north-eastwards as the connecting link. The last named, in compliance with previous instructions from General Joffre, was still moving south on September 5th; and the new plan entailed not only a right about face, but also bringing up the left flank so as to face north-east.

The connection between the British and the French Fifth Army to the east of us being somewhat weak, the Cavalry Division, which had been west of the 5th

cavalry brigade all through the retreat, was now brought round behind us on to our eastern flank ; so that in the subsequent advance the Cavalry Division was on the right covering the 1st Corps, and the 3rd and 5th cavalry brigades on the left covering the 2nd Corps. The rôle of the whole of the cavalry was to press the enemy vigorously. It may be said at once that this rôle was a difficult one to carry out satisfactorily. The enemy, realising his danger just in time, began on September 6th a general retirement, which, though signs of confusion were apparent everywhere, never degenerated into a rout ; while the country, enclosed and intersected by deep valleys running east and west, was admirably suited to rear-guard tactics.

SEPTEMBER 6th

On September 6th, as on so many mornings before, the break of day found the Greys moving northwards from their billets, but the rôle that they were to fill was very different. For on this day, the tide had turned indeed, and they were marching, not to defend the rear of a retreating army, but to pave the way for the advance of men who were fully conscious that their retirement had never been due to any inferiority in fighting capacity. Otherwise, from the point of view of the Scots Greys, who were in brigade reserve, the day was not eventful, and they only advanced four miles from their billets at Le Plessis to their new billets at the Chateau de Lumigny. The 12th Lancers, however, had a certain amount of fighting and captured a motor car in good order, a tangible and visible sign that one has advanced further and quicker than the enemy had intended one to do. For some days it was a very useful and much envied adjunct to their head-

quarter mess, and the Greys, when their opportunity came on September 10th, were not slow to equip their head-quarters and at least one squadron with a similar convenience. All too soon, however, the inevitable order was issued that all such treasure-trove was to be handed over to some remote authority who was probably quite unable to find a use for them, and in whom a captured motor car raised no more interest than an empty G.S. wagon.

SEPTEMBER 7th

On September 7th the 20th Hussars found the advanced guard, and detailed one troop under Lieut. Galbraith of that regiment to act as right flank guard. About 4.30 p.m. this officer discovered that the remainder of the brigade was following him instead of the advanced guard, so General Chetwode ordered the Greys to furnish a new advanced guard, and "C" squadron took over this duty. At about 5 p.m. Rebais was reached, and the advanced section of the 4th troop which was leading, encountered a small patrol of German dragoons a few hundred yards short of the village. Sir Gawaine Baillie, the troop leader, at once rode up to his advanced party, and putting himself at its head, led them straight at the enemy who turned and fled back to the village with the Greys in close pursuit. Unfortunately the village was strongly held, and as they passed the first houses, Sir Gawaine Baillie was shot by a German officer with his revolver. Private Hemming, who was immediately behind, had the satisfaction of running this officer through with his sword. Sergeant Watts was captured, and the remainder of the troop were rallied by Private Shaw

who took up a position at the entrance of the village. Private Shaw was made a Corporal for this action. Meanwhile Captain Long in command of the squadron, ordered the 3rd troop to attack mounted down the road, while the 1st troop, also mounted, was sent to attack through the gardens and orchards about 500 yards to the right. This troop saw a body of mounted men on their right flank. S.S.M. Currie rode up thinking they were some of our own troops, but not until he was close to them, did he discover that they were Germans. He drew his revolver and shot the leader dead. The remainder retired. The 3rd troop succeeded beyond expectation; advancing in single file along a disused water course, they got to the central square entirely unobserved, and found there the led-horses of the men holding the southern end of the village, as well as the rest of the two squadrons from which these men had been detached. The Greys at once opened rapid fire, a regular panic ensued, and very soon the Germans were in full flight to the north and the whole of Rebais was in our hands.

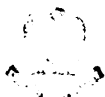
The patrol that had been driven in by Sir Gawaine Baillie was evidently all that the Germans had out in the way of protection. His prompt action undoubtedly caused our attack to come as a surprise to the enemy, and so had much to do with the ease with which they were turned out of Rebais.* This village marked the limit of the brigade's objective for the day, and the Greys went into billets at a short distance to the north thereof.

* Sir Gawaine Baillie was brave and fearless almost to a fault. Wounded at Cérizy on August 28th, he rejoined his troop on the morning of September 7th. Still suffering from the effects of his wound, he carried his arm in a sling and so could not use his sword.

**SEPTEMBER 8th**

The next day was devoted to the crossing of the Petit Morin. This river, with its steep and wooded banks, is a serious obstacle if held in any force, and the ground is very unsuitable for the employment of cavalry. Consequently, when patrols reported that the crossings were strongly held, a brigade of infantry was brought up, and the cavalry, who had lost a certain number of men from shell-fire while reconnoitring the enemy positions on the other side of the river, were withdrawn again to the neighbourhood of Rebais and passed the night in billets at Les Jardins.

An account of a patrol, under Lieut. Compton, that was sent out on this occasion is inserted here, both because it is interesting in itself and because it gives those, who did not themselves serve in the war, a very good idea of the initiative that was called for in the leader if he was to be successful in carrying out his mission. One of the greatest difficulties of patrolling at the beginning of the war was how to communicate information gained in sufficient time to be of service to those who required it, since, as a rule, the regiment was moving all the time that the patrol was operating. On this occasion this difficulty did not arise, as Lieut. Compton knew that his Regiment was concentrated 2 or 3 miles to the north of Rebais, and would not move till he sent in his report, and that infantry were waiting ready to move up to the attack directly it became apparent that the river bank was being held. What was usually done was to furnish the patrol leader with information of the general direction of the line of march and a rough time-table of the probable movements of the regiment, and it depended entirely on his judgment and the intelligence of his messengers how soon his



report reached the hands of those for whom it was intended. As a rule, owing to the thoroughness with which this work had been practised in time of peace, the reports came in very well.

“ At daybreak on the morning of September 8th, I was ordered by my squadron leader, Captain McCombie, to take out my troop and reconnoitre along the road through La Trétoire as far as the Petit Morin. I interpreted my instructions to mean (1) I must get into touch with the enemy's rear guard and obtain all the information possible on its strength; (2) take any opportunity that presented itself to hustle and harry them but, (3) not to get entangled in any serious engagement. With this object in view, we set forth shortly before dawn. We had not proceeded far that morning when we came into touch with some mounted Germans. I dismounted my troop and opened fire on the enemy and our fire was returned by some others further away, who were concealed in a dip in the ground, but these soon mounted and moved off at a trot down the road towards the village of La Trétoire. (This village stands near the top of the slopes leading down to the Petit Morin river, and the road along which the Germans were moving led through the village in a curve to the top of the hill and then zig-zagged down the gradient to the bridge and up the opposite bank.) We at once mounted and galloped for a point beyond the village, where I guessed we should obtain a good field of fire into the road and catch the Germans coming out of the village. In this we were successful, being just in time to get into action and obtain a few seconds' rapid fire at them

before they were hidden from view by the trees. They were beautifully bunched together and a perfect target, and we killed eight as we afterwards verified. No sooner were they out of sight than we were up and after them again, hoping to repeat the operation as they went up the slope on the other side of the river. Again we were just in time to get a few seconds' fire at them as we anticipated, but this time they were not bunched as, naturally, they were now galloping as fast as they could go, but we dropped two more at 300 yards. We were now lying behind a thin hedge in a dip in the ground, and no sooner had our target disappeared than a fairly heavy fire was opened on us from the opposite table land to which we replied. It seemed to us that there must be at least a company of German infantry facing us, and that they had machine gun support as well. I was debating in my mind as to the best means of extricating ourselves and getting back to our horses so as to send a report to the Regiment, when a company of Coldstream Guards appeared skirmishing through the trees. I explained the position, as far as I knew it, to the officer in command and he decided to attack at once, and I promised to remain where I was and support him by covering fire. It was during this period that we had the misfortune to lose Private McLellan killed and two others were wounded. However, I am sure that we were of material assistance to the Guards as they soon reached their objective. We then mounted and rode off to rejoin the squadron."

The points that seem to be brought out from this account appear to be the importance of sticking to the enemy

when once found, and of having one's men well trained quickly to pick up a target while at the same time accurately judging the range.

SEPTEMBER 9th

By nightfall on September 8th the infantry were in possession of all the crossings over the Petit Morin and the 5th cavalry brigade started at 3 a.m. the next morning with a view to making up for lost time. The crossings over the river Marne had also been secured and that night the brigade billeted some four miles to the north of that river. Regimental headquarters were at Le Larget farm.

SEPTEMBER 10th

The next day brought another very early start for the Regiment, it being their turn to lead the brigade. "A" squadron formed the advanced guard, and proceeding about ten miles without meeting any opposition, they came to the vicinity of the river Clignon, a small tributary of the Ourcq. Just to the south of this behind a wood to the east of Gandelu, an officer's patrol of "B" squadron discovered a brigade of cavalry, half a battalion of Jaegers, and a long convoy concealed in a hollow on the north side of the river. Acting on this officer's report a section of "J" battery was hurriedly brought up and opened fire. The surprise was complete, and the enemy suffered severe casualties as they retired. While "J" battery were in action, about fifty Jaegers were seen retiring up an exposed slope from the woods north of the river. Lieut. Pigot Moodie opened fire with his machine guns, and after the first burst they all lay down. Then about half got up and continued to run. The machine guns opened and again stopped them. This continued until

just one man got up and ran, but he was promptly downed amid great applause. It was the story of the ten little nigger boys applied to Jaegers.

Meanwhile the advanced guard ("A" squadron) acting dismounted, had driven in a small rear guard to the south of the village of Gandelu. Upon this "C" squadron were ordered to attack the village, and "B" squadron the bridge over the river and then the ridge about a quarter of a mile west of the village. "C" squadron attacked with its 3rd troop (Lieut. Crabbe) keeping the 1st troop (Sergeant Andrews) in reserve. The 3rd troop rushed down a very steep slope through the gardens and into the village street. There the sniping from the windows was so intense that the troop leader ordered the advance to continue through the village. On reaching the far side, one section faced about to prevent the enemy retiring out of the village, while the remainder started to clear up the wood. The men lined out walking through the undergrowth like beaters and shooting from the hip. On arriving at the stream which looked formidable, Lieut. Crabbe, who stands 6 feet 4 inches, jumped into the water which reached to his arms—his rifle above his head. His troop followed, crossing by a fallen tree which they placed across the stream. On emerging on the far bank, two frightened Germans were spotted in the undergrowth in the act of raising their rifles. Lieut. Crabbe jumped at them, his rifle butt-ended, and so effectively frightened them that they threw down their arms and surrendered. These woods, which were of considerable size, were not entirely cleared of enemy stragglers for several days.

"B" squadron had by now made considerable progress, but became rather involved in wood fighting. Colonel

Bulkeley-Johnson, becoming impatient, went over the bridge with his adjutant, Captain E. J. Hardy, and some orderlies. On coming round a bend in the road, he came across about 300 Germans standing in close formation in a glade in the wood. He rode up saying in English that it was no use their fighting as they were surrounded. One man picked up his rifle and shot the trumpet-major's horse through the neck, after which they all surrendered. In the meantime Captain Long attacked the ridge with his 1st troop, but the enemy opposition was too strong and he failed to attain his objective.

The 3rd troop of "C" squadron while clearing the wood received an order from Major Collins to leave the clearing of the wood to the infantry who were shortly expected, and to report to the officer commanding "J" battery as escort to the guns. However, on their way back, this troop went to the village itself to pick up its detached section, and here it captured 1 officer and 39 men, the officer drawing his sword and handing it to Lieut. Crabbe in the true old-fashioned manner. This troop also killed or wounded about 25 of the enemy without suffering a single casualty.

Crossing the river north of Gandelu, the Regiment caught up and captured a convoy which was endeavouring to escape, but which had been headed back by the 12th Lancers who had crossed the stream further down with the object of inflicting further damage on the main body of retreating Germans. The Greys also came into action against this force, and a party of them displayed the white flag. Major Collins accordingly sent Sergeant Cranston* with his troop to round them

* Sergeant Cranston afterwards obtained a commission and rose to the position of battalion commander, in which he so distinguished himself that he was offered the command of a brigade, but he refused it as it meant going to another division, and he preferred to continue serving under his own divisional commander who knew him well and had the greatest confidence in him.



up, but when he galloped over the ridge on which they were posted, he found about 200 Germans on the other side who at once opened fire on the troop, killing one man and wounding another. Sergeant Cranston immediately shouldered his troop so as to get a portion of the ridge between it and the enemy, and so succeeded in bringing it back to the squadron without further loss.

Meanwhile "C" squadron had become engaged with another large body of the enemy who had opened fire on them from a wood in their rear, and both squadrons were by now so outnumbered that to continue in action would be to risk the loss of what they had already captured. Accordingly, alternately covering each other's retirement, they extricated themselves without much difficulty and fell back on the brigade. The brigade captured about 400 men, 30 wagons, 7 guns and a large number of machine guns.

Late in the afternoon a severe storm came on and everyone was drenched to the skin. This ended the spell of fine weather accompanied by intense heat that had been experienced ever since the Regiment landed in France. No more was seen of the enemy though the advance was continued for another five miles as far as Passy-en-Valois.

SEPTEMBER 11th

On the night of the 10th General Chetwode gave instructions personally to Lieuts. Crabbe and Cornwallis to take out officer's patrols before dawn on the 11th to discover whether Billy-sur-Ourcq and Villers-le-Petit were occupied. The two patrols crossed the river Ourcq between the German outposts which were very thin, and advancing through the thick fog frequently meeting German patrols, eventually got to their



objectives. Lieut. Cornwallis got into touch with the French and Lieut. Crabbe with the 2nd cavalry brigade which, the night before, had advanced beyond the other brigades and was actually within the German lines. In the grey mist at dawn, Lieut. Crabbe first thought it was enemy cavalry he had encountered, especially as he was fired on whenever he tried to approach. Lord St. Germans, on his return from sick leave, had become attached to the 2nd brigade, and now rejoined the Regiment.

The day was very cold and wet and the brigade advanced slowly but without ever being seriously engaged to Hartennes et Taux where they went into billets. Near the village the French heavy guns were shelling Soissons, the line of the Aisne evidently being held, but no one at this time imagined that the Germans were holding it with anything more than a strong rear guard.

SEPTEMBER 12th

The day was again very wet. The 3rd and 5th cavalry brigades pushed on to Chassemy and Brenelle and, by capturing these places, secured the command of the heights that dominated the south bank of the Aisne. At Brenelle a certain number of prisoners were taken. Infantry outposts were posted on the captured heights, and the cavalry were withdrawn to billets in Braisne and the neighbouring villages.

SEPTEMBER 13th

On the assumption that the enemy did not intend seriously to contest the crossing of the river Aisne, the 3rd and 5th cavalry brigades were ordered to rendezvous on the morning of September 13th one mile to the north of Braisne to continue the pursuit. While there,

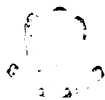
they were exposed to shell fire, and it soon became evident that the enemy were in force. The cavalry were withdrawn to Braisne, while our artillery prepared the way for an infantry attack.

Since the advance began on September 6th, the 3rd and 5th cavalry brigades had been working together under the command of the senior brigadier, General Hubert Gough. They were now definitely formed into the 2nd Cavalry Division still under General Gough. Our Horse Artillery, battery "J", was transferred to the 4th cavalry brigade, and we received "E" battery instead.

SEPTEMBER 14th

The infantry having succeeded on the previous day in establishing themselves on the north bank of the Aisne, the cavalry were ordered on September 14th to take up the pursuit. The 5th brigade therefore moved up at dawn in a thick fog to Vailly, crossing the river by a pontoon bridge as the proper bridge had been destroyed. The order of march was Greys, 12th Lancers, 20th Hussars. The 7th infantry brigade were covering Vailly, but the ground rises steeply for two miles to the north of the village till it attains to a height of about 700 feet, and the infantry were very far from being at the top of the slope. Consequently the brigade halted in Vailly, while the advanced squadron ("A" squadron, Scots Greys) made good the high ground at the summit. While this was being done, the Brigadier and his Staff joined the headquarters of the Greys who were having a cup of coffee in an estaminet near the head of the column. To their astonishment Lieut. Cornwallis came in wounded, and reported that the squadron was held up and unable to get on. It was still thought that the opposition was, at most, a cavalry

rear-guard and, while "A" squadron dismounted and co-operated with the infantry in attacking the enemy, the rest of the brigade continued crossing the pontoon bridge, a very slow procedure, as it could only be crossed in single file at a walk. As the last regiment of the brigade (20th Hussars) got over the bridge, the fog suddenly lifted, and it was then seen that the Germans were holding a strongly entrenched position along the heights and that the whole of the river valley, including the village and pontoon bridge, were under artillery observation. The order was at once given for the brigade to retire, and the 20th Hussars accordingly proceeded to lead their horses in single file back over the bridge. Naturally this movement soon attracted the attention of the German gunners and, by the time the last troop of the 20th were crossing over, they had got the range pretty accurately and were plastering the bridge with shrapnel. The two remaining regiments of the brigade were now caught in a kind of a trap. They were not wanted for an attack on a strongly entrenched enemy, and even if they had been, it would have been impossible for their horses to remain in the streets of the village which was being continuously shelled by the Germans, while, if they attempted to retire by the bridge, they were certain to come under heavy shrapnel fire. The only thing was to get them back, a troop at a time, at irregular intervals, so as to dodge the German fire as far as possible. This was done pretty successfully in the case of the 12th Lancers, but by the time they had finished crossing, the Germans had grasped the situation and were watching the bridge like a cat watches a mouse hole with the result that a troop had only to appear to bring down a perfect tornado of shrapnel. The Greys, therefore, had a very bad time when it came to their



turn to cross the bridge. Their casualties would have been even more severe if it had not been for the admirable coolness displayed, of which the act for which Sergeant Clunie was afterwards awarded the *Medaille Militaire* is a typical example. Sergeant Clunie* was in the rear of his troop when his horse was killed and fell across the bridge in such a manner that, apart from the reluctance that horses have to passing close to a dead animal, it would have formed a very serious obstacle to the troops that were to follow. Sergeant Clunie halted the two men nearest to him and with their assistance finally succeeded in levering the horse off the bridge and into the river. It must be remembered that the bridge was a very flimsy structure, and had already been subjected to an unusual strain by the large number of men and horses that had passed over it, so that they had to work with great deliberation which makes it the more marvellous that none of them were hit. In fact, if there had been any display of panic or confusion among those who were crossing the bridge, the whole structure would have given way, and as it would have been impossible to repair it under fire, hardly a man or a horse of those left in the village would have escaped. Even as it was, the Greys lost 3 officers and about 50 men and horses. Further damage was inflicted on the brigade during its withdrawal to Braisne, as owing to the lower road being blocked by transport, it was unable to take advantage of the ground and had to go by Brenelle. Here again the Greys were the heaviest sufferers as they were now the rear regiment of the brigade and the Germans had got the range to a nicety by the time it was their turn to cross over the shell-swept ground. The Regiment

* Sergeant Clunie was subsequently killed in the trenches near Guillemont in 1917.



went into billets at Couvrelles just south of the Vesle to the east of Braisne and remained there for the rest of the month, as there was no scope for the use of cavalry in the trench warfare that now developed along the river Aisne.

SEPTEMBER 15th-30th

The only duty that fell on the brigade, during this period, was to find a squadron to watch the important crossing between Ciry-Salsogne and Condé-sur-Aisne at the junction of the Aisne and Vesle rivers. The Greys suffered no casualties during their tour of this duty though the Germans occasionally sent shells over from Condé. On Sunday the 27th there was a report that the Germans were crossing the bridge and the whole brigade moved up dismounted to the brigade rendezvous at La Beige farm.

It proved, however, to be a false alarm, and after the opportunity of having the whole brigade together had been utilised to hold a church parade, the regiments went back to their billets.

Advantage was taken of this respite from marching and fighting, the first that the Regiment had had since it arrived in France, to pay that attention to horses, saddlery, and equipment which cannot be properly given on the march. In this work of re-organization, the arrival, on September 17th, of the first reinforcement, consisting of Captain Johnstone and Lieut. St. Lawrence with 62 men and 63 horses, was of very great assistance. In all 8 officers joined the Regiment during this period, the others being :—Major C. B. Loring, Indian Army, Captain Egerton, Indian Army, Captain W. E. Lawrence, Lieut. C. R. Pawson, Lieut. L. H. S. Bowlby and 2nd Lieut. Stevenson-Reece.

On September 29th, in accordance with what afterwards became the invariable practice of all cavalry regiments when behind the line, the Greys held a regimental horse-show. It was a very great success, and there were several events open to the rest of the brigade. There was some misconception about the sports and competitions held by cavalry regiments behind the line. They were not held, as some people profess to believe, to relieve the intolerable boredom of officers and men who were not doing their fair share of the work that fell on the army. On the contrary, they were a common-sense method of maintaining, by friendly rivalry among units, the highest standard of efficiency. There was a danger that the cavalry, condemned as they must necessarily be by trench warfare to long periods of forced inaction alternated with spells of doing duty as infantry, might lose sight of the reason why they were kept almost continuously in reserve. It was because, both in their training and in their daily routine, they never forgot their true rôle as the spear-head of the army, that they could always be relied on right through the war to cope with any emergency with which they might be confronted.

SEPTEMBER 30th-OCTOBER 11th

On September 30th was commenced the move to the rear of the French Sixth Army, so as to place the British in their proper place on the left of the line. At the same time this redistribution was in the nature of a move to outflank the Germans who already had large forces engaged to the east of Soissons in the neighbourhood of Roye. The cavalry were moved by road, the infantry going by rail. The 2nd Cavalry Division (3rd and 5th brigades) moved a day's march in advance of the 1st Cavalry Division. As far as and including

Amiens, the marches were made by night so as to prevent the enemy becoming aware, by means of their aeroplanes, that the movement was taking place. The stages in the march to Amiens were about 20 miles a day, and the billeting areas for the Regiment were as follows :— September 30th—Courdoux ; October 1st—Billy-sur-Ourcq ; October 2nd—Silly-la-Poterie ; October 3rd—Villeneuve ; October 4th—Montgerain ; October 5th—Moreuil. These night marches came very hard on the men and horses, as they were on the move practically all the time from sunset till dawn. Nor were they able to get much rest during the day. In order that they might remain efficiently concealed, they had to be squeezed into quarters that were extremely cramped and inconvenient, and of course it was only in the hours of daylight that the ordinary routine of a cavalry regiment, as regards the care of horses, arms, and saddlery, could be carried on.

On October 6th the division remained halted in the neighbourhood of Morisel in case it should be required to go to the assistance of the French who were heavily engaged at Roye, but it was not required, and on the 7th marched through Amiens and went into billets just north of the town. The weather was bitterly cold and it froze hard that night, a very unusual thing so early in the year. On the 8th the Greys marched to Gorenflos; on the 9th to Eclimeux ; on the 10th to Rombly, where the German cavalry were heard of in the Forêt de Nieppe about 7 miles to the north-east ; and on the 11th to Wallon Cappel where the Regiment, though still geographically in France, found itself among the dykes and Flemish-speaking people of Flanders. In a country so particularly unsuited for the employment of cavalry it would have been difficult to make much



headway, even if the enemy had not been supported by infantry in vastly superior numbers.

OCTOBER 12th

On October 12th the cavalry divisions were formed in line and advanced in a north-easterly direction, with the mission of protecting the front and northern flank of our infantry. The 2nd cavalry division, now strengthened by the transfer of the 4th cavalry brigade, was on the left: and the leading brigade, the 3rd, cleared the important position of the Mont des Cats. The 5th brigade that night went into billets at Gode-waersvelde just to the north of the Mont des Cats.

OCTOBER 13th

At dawn on the 13th two officer's patrols under Lieuts. Lord St. Germans and Crabbe were sent out to Poperinghe and Reningelst respectively. The former found the French cavalry in occupation, and the latter found Reningelst all clear. However, later in the morning, a patrol sent to this village found that it had been occupied by an enemy cavalry regiment.

The division continued its march with the same mission, driving the German cavalry back before them to Boeschepe and Berthen. It was, however, slow work in this very closely enclosed country where cavalry is practically confined to the roads.

OCTOBER 14th and 15th

The next day again saw the Germans being steadily pushed back, and on the 15th the brigade, which was on the left, got into touch at Kemmel with the 3rd cavalry division which had recently landed at Ostend



with the 7th division. Since these last-named troops were more or less in touch with the Belgian army retiring along the coast, the allied forces now stretched in a continuous line from the Swiss frontier to the sea. The Race to the Sea was over, but had unfortunately ended in a dead-heat, since the Germans on their side also possessed a continuous line. The operations resulting from their efforts to pierce, now that it was not possible to outflank, our line, are known as the First Battle of Ypres, and will be recounted in the next chapter.

CHAPTER IV.

**15th October
to
30th November
1914**

**THE FIRST BATTLE
OF YPRES**

CHAPTER IV.

The First Battle of Ypres.

The great strength which the enemy were about to develop on this part of the battle line was not yet fully apparent, so that for several days longer our cavalry continued to be employed in reconnaissance, and in protecting the intended advance of the infantry.

OCTOBER 15th

The accession of strength due to our junction with the 3rd cavalry division on October 15th made it seem feasible to push the Germans back more rapidly, and it was hoped that on this day it might be possible to force the crossings of the Lys from Armentieres to Menin. The 2nd cavalry division pushed forward patrols to Comines and Wervicq, which reported that the bridge at Comines had been destroyed, but that the one at Wervicq was intact. The 5th cavalry brigade did indeed get as far as the Warneton-Comines railway about a mile to the north of the river, but the troops on the right were already beginning to feel the pressure of the enormous masses of German troops that were advancing through Tourcoing and Roubaix, so that the brigade found its right flank quite unsupported and fell back again on Kemmel, where it passed the night.

OCTOBER 16th

The next day it moved up to Houthem on the Ypres-Comines canal about two miles short of the farthest point that it had reached on the previous day. A



general attack was ordered for the following day, the 7th infantry division being now in position on the left and ready to attack down the Ypres-Menin road.

OCTOBER 17th-20th

This attack, as was only to be expected in view of the constant increase of the German forces which were now operating northwards through Menin as well as westwards through Tourcoing, was not able to make much headway. In fact the Germans were no longer being outflanked, but were massing troops against every portion of the weak line opposed to them. In the course of the next few days they threatened the 1st Corps on the extreme left at Ypres with overwhelming forces, while, with equally large forces, they pinned the remainder of the British army at Armentieres so that it could not go to the 1st Corps' assistance. Between these two portions of the British army there was an awkward gap. The only troops to fill it were the cavalry, so it came about that, from being a fluid line of mounted men occasionally dismounting to use their rifles, they gradually congealed into a rigid line of dismounted men, occasionally using their horses to move from one part of the battlefield to another. The 5th cavalry brigade did indeed succeed on the 18th in advancing as far as Tenbrielen, and a patrol of "C" squadron, the Greys, reached the outskirts of Wervicq, where it remained all day. On the following day the brigade got as far as the hamlet of America, only two miles north of Wervicq, but the pressure exercised by the constant arrival of fresh enemy troops told its inevitable tale, and on the 20th the failure of the attacks to the right and left of the brigade caused it to be hurriedly withdrawn to support the 4th cavalry brigade which was being heavily counter-attacked from

the direction of Warneton. The Greys were employed that night in putting the Oosttaverne ridge into a state of defence, and, in spite of their having no entrenching tools, except what they could get from the neighbouring farms and houses, managed to make a very creditable job of it.

OCTOBER 21st—OCTOBER 22nd-29th

On October 21st the 3rd cavalry brigade withdrew from their trenches south-east of Hollebeke, forcing the 5th cavalry brigade to conform. Later in the day both brigades were ordered back and succeeded in regaining their original trenches without serious fighting. On the 22nd the brigade successfully held their line against an early morning German attack, followed by a day of intense shell-fire until, in the evening, it was relieved by Wilde's Rifles, Indian Army. From that date till the 29th the Greys were continually in the trenches, either in the front line or in support, every available officer and man being employed on this duty, only one officer and an absolute minimum of men being sent back with the horses to such cover as was afforded by the woods on the west of the Oostaverne-St. Eloi road. Here the horses were kept saddled up night and day, but when there was a quiet period in the line, a small proportion of them would be off-saddled for an hour at a time. The majority of the Regiment had by now been issued with bayonets, but the men did not realise the necessity of keeping the clip clean. The result was that rapid fire caused the bayonet to fall off, generally on the wrong side of the parapet. The owner had then to retrieve it, an operation apt to be unhealthy, and the lesson was soon learnt.

It must be remembered that at this time the only artillery available were the horse artillery guns attached



to the different brigades of the division. However, except for this one attack at 3 a.m. on the 22nd, the enemy contented themselves with shelling and sniping, being imbued, no doubt, with a very thorough respect for their opponents after the reception they had been given on that occasion. The casualties in the Regiment while in the trenches were Lieuts. Cooper and St. Lawrence and about a dozen men wounded.

OCTOBER 30th and 31st—NOVEMBER 1st

On October 30th the Greys were selected to form part of a special brigade made up of a regiment from each of the three brigades of the 2nd cavalry division, to go to the assistance of the 3rd cavalry division whose position in the neighbourhood of Hollebeke chateau was regarded as very serious. It was thought that, at any moment, the enemy might break through the line at that point. Accordingly the Greys, 3rd Hussars and 4th Hussars, under Colonel Bulkeley-Johnson, marched to Klein Zillebeke, and moved up from there to the support of the 3rd cavalry division who, with their aid, were enabled to hold their portion of the line till, late at night, they were relieved by the 4th Guards brigade. The German attack on this portion of the front and to the north of it, was made by five fresh divisions. The Greys then marched back to billets in Wytschaete, but that same night the 5th cavalry brigade line on the Oosttaverne ridge was forced back almost into Wytschaete, and at 4.30 p.m. on the 31st, the Greys were ordered to relieve the 12th Lancers who had been fighting continuously ever since the morning of the 30th in the new trench line that had been taken up along the Oosttaverne-St. Eloi road. The Germans again attacked that night and the 4th cavalry brigade on the right were forced back so that, in order to prevent the

line being broken, the Greys were compelled to pass through Wytschaete itself to take up a new position on the left of the 4th brigade. Here the Greys found themselves in an impasse as, having once got in, they could not get out. The roads were blocked with transport and horses, which were packed so tightly that it was quite impossible to get through them. As a result different units got inextricably mixed up in the darkness and pouring rain so that, until daylight came, the confusion was very great. The enemy were now at one end of the village with the British at the other, and the situation was very critical. Accordingly, at dawn on November 1st, General Chetwode gave the order for the 12th Lancers to counter-attack. Luckily by now the whole brigade were in possession of bayonets, the Greys having been completed with theirs on October 30th when the Regiment formed part of the special brigade sent to the assistance of the 3rd cavalry division. This counter-attack was completely successful; the whole of Wytschaete was regained, and also the trenches from which the 4th brigade had been driven in the early morning. General Chetwode sent his A.D.C., 2nd Lieut. Williams, to act as guide through the village, and he greatly distinguished himself in this counter-attack, leading the advanced party of the 12th Lancers with great dash and accounting for many Germans himself. He received the D.S.O. for his gallantry on this occasion.

During the fighting in Wytschaete, "C" squadron, the Greys, now under Captain Lawrence, were heavily engaged astride the Oosttaverne-St. Eloi road. As the French troops which had arrived to relieve the 5th brigade were slower in reaching this portion of the line, this squadron had to hold on until the afternoon. They

repeatedly drove back massed attacks and had some wonderful targets. Owing to some misunderstanding of the orders for the relief, the last two troop leaders to withdraw, Lieuts. Lord St. Germans and Crabbe, thought that they could not leave the position until they had actually handed over to the French. The French infantry were still some way back, crawling up the ditches on either side of the road, so these two troops remained heavily engaged. Colonel Bulkeley-Johnson now walked straight up the middle of the road to the two troops in action 60 yards from the enemy, seized Lord St. Germans by the collar, and ordered him to stop shooting and retire. He made these troops fall in and march in sections down the middle of the road in order to demonstrate to the French that the Greys were not running away. In spite of the close proximity of the enemy, only one casualty was suffered during this withdrawal.

After relief by the French, the brigade was withdrawn to reserve at Kemmel where it remained for the rest of the day. After dark the brigade went into billets in the Kemmel-La Clytte-Groote Vierstraat area, the Greys being in Kemmel.

NOVEMBER 2nd

On the morning of the 2nd, however, the Greys were hurriedly sent up to reinforce the line on the Wulverghem ridge to the west of Messines, and here Lieut. Compton was wounded and Captain Glanville, R.A.M.C., the medical officer in charge of the Regiment, was killed. At 3 p.m. the line being completely restored, the Regiment was withdrawn to St. Jans Cappel.

NOVEMBER 3rd-10th

For the next week the Regiment was officially "resting" because they were re-united with their horses. As a

matter of fact it was utilised as a mobile reserve, and scarcely a day or night passed that it was not moved up either to Dranoûtre, Neuve Eglise or Ploegsteert to act as a support to some point or other in our thinly held line. Whatever the time of day that these marches started, the return was invariably by night, either in pouring rain or in a biting frost that turned the roads into a sheet of ice. The roads, naturally, were much blocked with transport and units either going out to rest or returning to the line, so that these marches of a few miles were most irksome and fatiguing, and robbed the men and horses of what little rest they otherwise might have got. The drain in horse-flesh was very severe and, though 33 rather indifferent remounts arrived on November 8th, and a further re-inforcement of 52 men and 55 horses under 2nd Lieut. Scott-Robson on the 10th, these were insufficient to make up the losses that the Regiment had suffered.

NOVEMBER 11th and 12th

On November 11th the 5th cavalry brigade relieved the 2nd cavalry brigade in the trenches at Wulverghem. It was on this day that the defeat of the Prussian Guard at Ypres marked the closing stages of that titanic struggle which lasted for more than three weeks, and was destined to be immortalised in history under the name of the First Battle of Ypres. The Greys, during November 11th and 12th, were never seriously attacked, but it was not unfitting, in view of the great services that they and all the cavalry had rendered during the most critical stages of this great battle, that a portion of the line was being held by the Regiment at the time that the last waves of the German attack were dashing themselves in vain against the impregnable barriers of

the British defence. As Lord French says in his book "1914" :—

"The greatest threat of disaster, with which we were faced in 1914, was staved off by the devoted bravery and endurance displayed by the Cavalry Corps. It is no disparagement to the other troops engaged, if I lay stress on the fact that it was the cavalry alone, who for more than a fortnight previously had been disputing foot by foot every yard of the ground to the river Lys. They had fought day and night with the utmost tenacity, and the battles of October 31st and November 1st were but the climax to a long and bitter spell of heroic effort. Taking into account the losses they had suffered, they can hardly have opposed 2,000 rifles to the onslaught of what has been computed at more than two German Army Corps."

NOVEMBER 13th-18th

On November 13th the 5th cavalry brigade were relieved by the 3rd cavalry brigade, and moved back to billets at La Crèche where they remained, practically without being actively employed for six days. During this period Lt.-Col. Bulkeley-Johnson was appointed to the command of the 8th cavalry brigade, and Major Lawson assumed the command of the Regiment. On the 15th, the Greys were called on to support the 4th cavalry brigade in the trenches, but the only tangible evidence of their having to do this was a change of billets. Similarly, on the 16th, the brigade was made divisional reserve to the 5th infantry division, but all that happened was that it moved back to its old billets at La Crèche where, on the 18th, the Regiment had the honour of receiving a visit from the Prince of Wales.

THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS

NOVEMBER 19th-21st

On November 19th, however, in a blinding snowstorm, the brigade was moved up to Kimmel. There the Greys dismounted in the snow and the horse-holders took the horses back to the billets, while the remainder of the Regiment marched up to some very unpleasant trenches about a mile to the north of that place, and took over from the 15th French Infantry. These trenches were in very close proximity to the German ones, and there was a good deal of sniping and shelling. The Regiment stayed there till the 21st, and while there lost Captain S. J. Hardy wounded, 6 other ranks killed, and 4 other ranks wounded. On the evening of the 21st the Greys were relieved by the 1st cavalry brigade, were met by their horses at Kimmel and scrambled back to their billets over the frosty roads, getting back to La Crèche about midnight, where Lieut. Pigot Moodie rejoined.*

NOVEMBER 22nd-30th

For the rest of the month the Regiment remained in billets at La Crèche. Special attention was paid to the training of the men with the bayonets which had now become part of the equipment of the cavalry soldier, and practice in bomb throwing and infantry training generally was not forgotten. At the same time the squadrons were, as far as possible, made complete in officers, men and horses. The horses rapidly improved in condition and appearance now that there was time for proper attention to be paid to them, and by the end of the month the Regiment was practically as fit as it had been at the outbreak of the war to carry out any duty that it might be called on to perform.

* Returned to duty from wounded.

CHAPTER V.

**1st December
1914
to
28th February
1916**

**THE BATTLE OF NEUVE CHAPELLE
THE SECOND BATTLE OF YPRES
AND
THE BATTLE OF LOOS**



CHAPTER V.

The Battles of Neuve Chapelle, Second Ypres, and Loos.

Towards the end of the third week in November, the fighting in Flanders died down, the left of the British line was relieved by the French, and it became possible to withdraw part of the troops into reserve to rest and recuperate after the terrible strain to which they had been subjected.

DECEMBER, 1914

During the whole of December the Greys remained at La Crèche, on the borders of France and Belgium, close to the little French frontier town of Bailleul. On December 2nd the Regiment had the honour to be inspected by His Majesty The King, near Noote Boom, a few miles to the west of its billets. His Majesty, who was accompanied by the Prince of Wales, expressed to Major Lawson, who was in command of the Regiment on that occasion, his great appreciation of the reports he had received of its conduct and performance during the war.

On the 7th, the 5th cavalry brigade was inspected by Field Marshal Sir John French, who thanked the Regiment for the work it had done and complimented it on the gallantry displayed.

On December 8th, Major Collins rejoined the Regiment and assumed command. Several reinforcements



reached the Regiment during the month, the most important being :—

On December 9th—Lieut. Lawson-Johnstone ;
45 men and 20 horses.

On December 17th—Lieut. Cornwallis* ; 25 men
and 20 horses.

On December 30th—Captain McCombie* ; 9 men
and 16 horses.

Lieut. Lord Rodney also joined the Regiment during the month.

JANUARY, 1915

The Greys remained at La Crèche until the middle of January, 1915, constrained by the tactical situation in the trench line a few miles to the east of them, to a rôle in which they could play the part neither of mounted nor dismounted men. The cavalry, in fact, proved themselves so invaluable during the first battle of Ypres, both as a substitute for our worn out infantry and as a mobile reserve to our thinly held line that, naturally, it was desired to keep them as close as possible to the area of operations, and in a state of constant readiness to move up to the line at short notice. On the other hand, under such conditions, they were bound to deteriorate as cavalry, as the new men and horses that were constantly coming in to make up deficiencies, could not get the squadron and regimental training which they could have got if they had been further behind the line, and the monotonous routine of exercise was about the only cavalry work that was possible for the Greys as a regiment. Consequently, it was a relief to all ranks when it was decided to move the cavalry right away from the line, and on January 16th, after two days' marching, the Greys found

* Returned to duty from wounded.

themselves at Coyecque on the river Lys, some 40 miles to the west of their former billet. A scheme of training was at once drawn up, and there were brigade and even divisional days. At the same time, the possibility of the Regiment being again required for trench warfare was not forgotten. Rifle ranges were made, including a special short one for each squadron to accustom the men to point-blank firing. Particular attention was devoted to everything that had to do with the siting and digging of trenches, and the regimental signallers were instructed in the laying and use of field telephones. On the 30th the Regiment's horses were inspected by the Brigadier and the D.A.D.R., who expressed their approval of their condition. In this connection, it is interesting to note that, at this date, there were still 281 grey horses with the Regiment. On January 31st, in a blinding snowstorm, the Regiment moved to Merville, 25 miles nearer the line, and went into billets there.

As the Regiment was now up to its full strength, the only additions during the month were small drafts to replace wastage. One new officer joined, Lieut. Lord Francis Hill.

FEBRUARY

The reason for this move to Merville was that the Cavalry Corps was about to take over a trench line from the French east of Ypres. The 3rd cavalry division was the first to go into the line, and was to be relieved in due course by the 2nd cavalry division. Training was continued just as before, except that in each squadron scouting parties of 4 men per troop under two officers were practised with a view to trench raids. The men were naturally interested at the prospect of being once more actively employed, but their ardour

was probably rather damped by an issue of whale oil with special instructions for its use against frostbite. On February 12th, "A" Echelon, 1st line transport, marched to Ypres, and the machine gun sections were moved there in motor buses, and on the 13th, the whole of the 5th cavalry brigade were moved up to Ypres in buses, the strength of the Greys' dismounted party being 20 officers and 296 other ranks who were conveyed in 13 buses. The rest of the men were left with "B" Echelon and the horses. Each man wore a mackintosh over his greatcoat, and ground sheet rolled over his blanket, and the officers were equipped the same as the men. Ypres at this time was still a town in being. There were a few shops open and a small market was held. It was, however, constantly under fire, and every day a few more houses were destroyed. The Greys had good billets in the Rue de Lille, mostly in empty houses. On the night of the 17th they marched through Zillebeke and took over a line of trenches from the Carabiniers in what was afterwards known as Sanctuary Wood. The cavalry had originally taken over these trenches from some French infantry, and we were still under the orders of the French 18th Division. One of the most remarkable things about the cavalry in the trenches at this period was their large proportion of officers. Thus a squadron with the greater part of its usual complement of officers would take over a section of trench line from two platoons possibly under the command of a sergeant! On the other hand, the large proportion of officers may have had something to do with the good account that the cavalry always gave of themselves in the trenches.

The Greys held the right of the line occupied by the cavalry, with the 12th Lancers on their left. The



trenches were in a terrible state, more especially those held by the squadron on the right. The commanding officer decided that these trenches would have to be relieved every 24 hours as the men were standing well up to their knees in water, and for the greater part of the time it was freezing hard. Also, to make matters worse, there were practically no gum-boots available at this time. "A" and "B" squadrons took the relief on the right with one squadron in line and one in support. "C" squadron took the left of the line which was not in so bad a state. During the days that they were in the line this squadron, under Captain Long, filled and placed in revetment no fewer than 5,000 sandbags, and thus entirely transformed this section. Beyond pumping hard when pumps could be secured, the squadrons on the right were powerless to do much work. At this part of the line the German trenches were only 20 to 30 yards from ours which prevented the trenches from being exposed to shell-fire. The casualties (Lord Ebrington and 9 men wounded) were the result of bombs or rifle fire.

For the purpose of the tour of duty in the trenches, the 2nd cavalry division was organized in two brigades, the 16th Lancers and one squadron of the 5th Lancers being attached to our brigade. On the morning of the 21st, the trenches of the 16th Lancers on the extreme left of our line, were blown up by a mine. Up till then the Greys had rather envied them their comparatively dry trenches, but the explosion cost them very severe casualties, and it looked as if the Germans might break through. The support squadron of the Greys stood to with a view to going to the assistance of the 16th Lancers but were not called upon to act. An immediate counter-attack was made by the supporting troops (3

troops) of the 16th Lancers, backed up by the machine guns of the 5th Lancers, but this failed with heavy loss. At 9.30 a.m. a company of French infantry and a squadron of the 20th Hussars made another counter-attack, but this also failed to drive the Germans from their lip of the mine crater. Private Williams* of the Greys, General Chetwode's orderly, who had held a commission in the 19th Hussars during the South African war, collected some details and accompanied this second counter-attack. He, with two men of the 20th, got further than anyone else, and lay all day close to the German position. The 16th Lancers lost 10 officers and the 20th Hussars 3 officers on this day. On February 22nd the 5th Dragoon Guards took over the line from the Greys, and on the 23rd the 5th cavalry brigade marched back to Ypres where it took motor bus to Merville and, on the following day, marched back to Coyecque. It is very creditable to the Greys that, in spite of the hardships they underwent, no men fell out for frostbite during their tour of duty in the line. The remainder of the month was spent at Coyecque where the usual routine of training was resumed.

MARCH

The Greys remained quietly at Coyecque during the early part of March, though there were rumours of a great offensive shortly. No one was therefore surprised when, on March 9th, the brigade was moved up to Merville, going on to Pont du Hem on the 10th, on which day the First Army under Sir Douglas Haig commenced the battle of Neuve Chapelle. On the afternoon of the 11th, the brigade moved back to

* For his conduct on this occasion he was recommended for and received a commission. As has been recorded, he had already distinguished himself in the counter-attack at Wytschaete on November 1st, 1914. He was now awarded the D.S.O., the first to be gained by the Regiment in the war.

Estaires, returning to Pont du Hem the following morning when orders were received for the cavalry to join in a general advance. The task of the cavalry was to push past the infantry and occupy a position through Aubers to a point east of that village. The whole day, however, was spent in the vicinity of Pont du Hem, on the great chaussée which runs almost due southwards from Estaires to Lens. There was a certain amount of desultory shell-fire during the day, and ambulance after ambulance passed along the road towards Estaires loaded with wounded infantry. There were also many walking cases passing in the same direction. Yet all was supposed to be going well, and late in the evening, just as it was getting dusk, the Brigadier received orders that the brigade was to push forward immediately to co-operate with the infantry, and, pressing on beyond them, to occupy the Aubers ridge. The Greys were the leading regiment of the brigade, and "B" squadron formed the advanced guard. Viscount Ebrington went ahead on a bicycle to reconnoitre a way over the trenches and became very unpopular with the infantry for drawing fire. It was already getting dusk, and it was extremely hard to make out the roads, blocked as they were with demolished houses and pitted with shell holes. After having proceeded about a mile and a half, Major Seymour sent back word to say that he was afraid the squadron had missed its way, but he had sent out patrols to get in touch with Lord Ebrington and ascertain where the trenches had to be crossed. This message was received by the commanding officer just as the supporting squadron had reached the point where the right road branched off, though as the houses on either side of it had been blown up, their debris entirely obliterated all traces of it. The commanding officer

then ordered Lord Rodney, who was in command of the leading troop of the supporting squadron, to form the advanced guard, but he had hardly started to trot on with his troop when they got caught up in some telegraph wires and one of the men was pulled off his horse. The advance was consequently somewhat delayed, and it was as well that it was so, as the brigade major now galloped up with orders for the Regiment to withdraw and join the rest of the brigade, which then withdrew to Estaires. It afterwards transpired that the whole order was due to a misconception. The advance of the Guards to the attack was to have been the signal for the cavalry to come up, but, as a matter of fact, the Guards never left their trenches. British troops were indeed seen going over the Aubers ridge, but these were parties of prisoners who had been captured by the enemy earlier in the day.

On March 13th the Greys were withdrawn to Vier Houck about two miles north of Merville, and remained there until the end of the month. The Regiment continued to receive small reinforcements of men and horses, most of the latter being greys, but of poor quality. While here, Prince Yousoupoff, who had been specially sent by H.M. the Czar, visited the Regiment, and presented Russian decorations to all those who had been mentioned in the first British despatch.

APRIL—MAY

Nevertheless, when the G.O.C. 5th cavalry brigade inspected the horses of the Regiment on April 14th he expressed himself as very pleased with their condition and appearance. On April 15th, further to encourage the men in the pride they took in their mounts, a regimental horse show was held, and two days later

THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS

the 2nd cavalry division held one also, at which the Greys carried off the first prize for the following classes :—the best troop horse ; the best troop horse that had been right through the war up to date ; and jumping, other ranks. The number of grey horses now with the Regiment was 322 against the 452 they had on mobilization. This month Lieut. Langton May and Lieut. Walter Elliot, R.A.M.C., joined the Regiment.

On the 23rd orders were received to saddle up at once and move up in the direction of the line. The reason for this order was that the French territorials on the left of the Canadians at Langemarck had been heavily attacked with poison gas, and had given way. The natural anxiety of all ranks was somewhat allayed at the first halt when the following " appreciation of the situation," typewritten on a slip of paper, was passed round :—" The Germans attacked at dawn, using asphyxiating gas, and broke the line for several miles round Langemarck. The situation does not appear in any way critical " 1 This situation started the Second Battle of Ypres, during which the Regiment was either in the line or in close support for 20 days out of 28. On the night of April 23rd-24th the Regiment were billeted at Berthen, and the following day were moved up to Vlamertinghe, where they remained till the evening of the 26th. It is interesting to note, both as showing the uncertainty of the situation and the great tactical value of a mobile reserve, that during this brief period the brigade successively passed under the orders of the G.O.C. Cavalry Corps, G.O.C. Canadian Division, G.O.C. French 45th Territorial Division, and G.O.C. 5th Army Corps. At 7.30 p.m. on the 26th, the Greys, leaving their horses at Vlamertinghe, marched on foot along the railway through Ypres to



trenches just north of Potijze with their left on the Ypres-Zonnebeke road. The trenches on their right were held by the 12th Lancers, those on their left by the Carabiniers. These trenches were a mile or so from the German line, so did not suffer from rifle fire, but were occasionally very heavily shelled. The whole time, while in the line, was spent in digging and improving the trenches, and, as there were no dugouts, these trenches were the men's sole protection against shell fire. The Greys stayed here till May 2nd, their casualties for the period being Lieut. Scott-Robson and 18 men wounded. It was on this date (May 2nd) that the Regiment saw the new gas cloud for the first time—a great pillar of green smoke coming down wind higher than the trees. The air currents did not bring it directly across our trenches, which was fortunate, as there were no respirators of any kind available. While the Greys were in the trenches, their led-horses at Vlamertinghe were shelled by some German long-range guns, one man being killed and two wounded, while 14 horses were killed and one missing. The confusion that this occasioned can well be imagined in view of the very small number of men left with the horses on these occasions, and it was very fortunate there was not a stampede. Directly news of the event reached headquarters, a draft of 8 men per squadron was sent back in a motor bus to assist those in charge of the horses in case of a repetition of the incident. On leaving the line the Greys picked up their horses at Ouderdom, south of Vlamertinghe, and on May 3rd marched 18 miles due west through Poperinghe to billets at Seinehouck, on the Dunkirk-Hazebrouck railway. May 7th saw the Greys back at their old quarters at Vier Houck where they were issued with gas masks and were inspected by General Kavanagh,

who had succeeded General Gough in command of the 2nd cavalry division. At midnight on the 13th-14th the brigade was suddenly ordered to stand-to, and was moved up to Vlamertinghe in motor buses. From there, on the evening of the 14th, the Greys marched on foot through Ypres to take over some trenches that had been held by the 3rd cavalry division who had suffered very severely in repulsing an attack made by the Germans on the previous day. Ypres was now a very different place to what it had been when the Regiment was there in February. There were very few houses still standing, and practically no inhabitants left. The trenches that the Greys took over from the Royals were between the Zonnebeke road and the Ypres-Roulers railway. They were quite unrecognisable as a line, having been blown to atoms in the hurricane bombardment of the day before, the whole country, in fact, being a mass of shell holes. There were still traces of the regimental headquarters where Colonel Steele, officer commanding the Royals, had been killed by a direct hit, and these were taken over by the headquarters of the Greys. However, by strenuous digging from dark till dawn, the Greys managed to produce some semblance of a line, and during the next few nights, having been left more or less in peace, they produced some very creditable trenches in front of which the Sappers erected barbed wire entanglements. The Sappers claimed that these entanglements would be absolutely impermeable to any troops unless previously demolished by artillery, but one night when the padre* with his stretcher party wanted to come back in a hurry, he and his men went through them as

* The Rev. W. R. Paterson, who had now re-joined the brigade, and who could never be persuaded from drifting up to the line as soon as he heard that the Regiment was in action. On this occasion he was out in front of the line searching for wounded of the 3rd cavalry division, when suddenly he and those with him were discovered by the Germans and subjected to heavy rifle fire at 800 yards range.



if they were butter, and with but very slight damage to their clothing. The Greys remained in these trenches till the evening of May 21st, when they were relieved by the 6th Durham Light Infantry,* part of the first Territorial Division to be employed as a unit in the line, and went back to quarters near Vlamertinghe. Among the casualties during this tour of duty was Captain Duguid-McCombie, who was wounded while inspecting the telephone line between regimental and brigade headquarters.

On the 24th the Greys were hurriedly turned out at 4.30 a.m. as the Germans had again used gas and had partly broken the line to the east of Ypres. The brigade remained in readiness all day about one mile east of Vlamertinghe, even at this distance the gas being strong enough to affect the eyes. The following morning the Regiment was moved into Ypres, and took up their quarters in the ramparts just south of the Menin Gate, where, during the 25th and 26th, it was subjected to pretty severe shell fire, losing 15 men as casualties. Of these, 1 man killed and 13 wounded were due to a shell which unluckily exploded in one of the entrances to the ramparts. On the evening of the 29th they were relieved by two squadrons of the 1st Life Guards, and marched back to Vlamertinghe, whence they were taken by motor buses to Vier Houck. On the 31st they marched to Staple, a little town on a hill about five miles south of Cassel, and went into billets.

JUNE—JULY

The Greys remained at Staple during June and July and the usual routine of training was continued, under

* The law abiding spirit of home service was still apparent among the troops forming this newly landed division, and a Scots dragoon remarked to the quartermaster, "They say they are short of rations and haven't had anything but bully beef and biscuits since they moved up, but I should doubt that, Sir for I saw them pass a live pig."

which everything that the infantry had learned about trench warfare was superimposed on the normal training of the cavalry soldier. On June 12th the brigade was inspected at Nieppe by General Sir John French, who, in his address to the troops, made it clear how in April, 1915, as in October, 1914, the cavalry had once more saved the situation. On June 18th, the centenary of the Battle of Waterloo, a regimental dinner was held at Staple. The following are the names of the officers who were present :—

Lieut. Col. W. F. Collins ; Majors Long, Prince Arthur of Connaught, and Seymour ; Captains S. J. Hardy, Readman, Borwick, Lawrence, E. J. Hardy, Lord Ebrington, Pigot-Moodie, and Montague-Johnstone ; Lieuts. Cornwallis, Bowlby, Pawson, Lord Rodney, Gaisford St. Lawrence, Crabbe, Dudgeon, Sprot, Seymour, Langton-May, and Lawson-Johnston ; and Lieut. Walter Elliot, R.A.M.C.

In July a digging party of one officer and 225 other ranks, under the command of Captain S. J. Hardy, was sent out to dig trenches round Dickebusch and La Clytte, a task that was performed to such good purpose as to evoke letters of thanks from no less than three Generals in High Command :—Generals Plumer, Fergusson and Allenby.

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER

On August 5th the Regiment marched about six miles south-west from Staple to new billets round Wardrecques. Here the Regiment was rather scattered, but otherwise the accommodation was good. On the 9th the news came that S.S.M. McNaughton and S.S.M. Cranston had been given commissions in the Seaforth

Highlanders and Scots Fusiliers respectively. On August 17th, the anniversary of the Regiment's arrival in France, there were present 12 officers, 270 other ranks, and 282 horses that had come out from England with the Regiment.

There being a canal handy at Wardrecques, the Greys practised swimming their horses and it was found that, by ramping down the banks and pulling the horses over by means of a built-up rope, such an obstacle would not delay the Regiment to any great extent. The horses were taken across in batches of forty, and the average time for a squadron to cross was 45 minutes. Bridging, and the instruction of the men in the use of boats was also practised, and the horses became so used to pontoon bridges that the whole Regiment, in single file, could easily pass over the canal in 20 minutes. Interesting as these details are from a professional point of view, there is a further reason for dwelling on them. There are some writers on the war who seem to have the impression that the cavalry were not pulling their full weight at this period. They must remember that in the army the real test of one's usefulness is the manner in which one carries out the things one is ordered to do, and the writer knows of no instance of the cavalry failing to do their utmost to carry out any duty that was imposed on them. The cavalry were very far from loafing in luxurious ease when they were behind the line. On the contrary, in accordance with the tradition of their arm, they never missed an opportunity of still further raising their standard of efficiency, and they were a striking illustration of the adage that the more work you give a man to do, the more ready he seems to be to cope with a sudden emergency.

On September 21st the brigade was again moved a little further south, this time to Blessy, some ten miles distant, and on the 24th they did another 14 miles in the same direction which brought them to Bergueneuse. The centre of interest in the line was moving southwards, and naturally the cavalry, as the only mobile reserve, shifted with it. On September 25th the Battle of Loos began. The brigade stood-to at 5.30 a.m., but did not actually move until 2.30 p.m., when it marched slowly to Cauchy-à-la-Tour, remaining there in pouring rain until 10.0 p.m. when it went into billets in the village. On each of the three following days the cavalry stood-to at dawn, and remained all day ready to move at half an hour's notice, but none of the 2nd cavalry division were employed in the battle, and they were not required to act dismounted although units of the 3rd cavalry division were so employed near Loos and Hill 70.

OCTOBER

On the 29th the Greys moved back to Nedonchel, and the 30th found them at Fiefs, mid-way between their former billets at Bergueneuse and Wardrecques. From there a party was sent to a point east of Vermelles to clear up the battle field and improve the trenches in the neighbourhood of Lone Tree. There was a certain amount of shelling and rifle fire, but only one man was wounded. Unhappily, however, Brigadier General Wormald was killed by a stray shell while on a visit of inspection. He had succeeded Sir Philip Chetwode in command of the brigade in July when the latter was appointed to the command of the 2nd cavalry division. On General Wormald's death, Lt.-Col. Charles Campbell, from the 16th Lancers, was appointed to the command of the brigade, and he paid his first visit



to the Regiment on October 6th. October 23rd saw the Greys in their winter quarters at Courset only some 15 miles from Boulogne. A programme of winter training was at once drawn up and, as the horses were all under cover and horse rugs had been issued, it was decided to clip them, except for the legs and saddle patch. While the Regiment was at Courset, some 40 men a squadron were formed into a digging party under Captain Duguid-McCombie and were sent to dig trenches near Nieppe.

The principal accession to the strength of the Regiment at this time was four subalterns (the Hon. G. Bailie-Hamilton, Viscount Weymouth, the Hon. H. N. Douglas-Pennant and H. J. Cator) and 100 dismounted men. These dismounted men were intended to afford a more liberal margin of man-power for such duties as looking after the horses when, as so often happened, the Regiment was called on to supply dismounted detachments for service in the trenches or for other purposes.

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER

Early in November a scheme was brought out by which each cavalry brigade would provide a three company battalion for service in the trenches; each regiment providing one company with officers complete and battalion headquarters being supplied by each regiment in rotation. Major Long was placed in command of the Scots Greys company, and during November and December, all the details in connection with this new unit were carefully gone into so that it might be easily mobilized. On December 10th, Major Long was promoted Lieut.-Colonel to command the 6th Wiltshire Regiment, and the command of the Scots

Greys company devolved on Captain Duguid-McCombie.

Five more subalterns (J. P. Walker, R. J. Jardine, W. H. C. Rollo, L. C. Dale-Lace, and C. Houston-Boswell) joined the Regiment during this period, and R.S.M. Currie was given a commission in the Regiment. S.S.M. Harding and S.S.M. Cathcart also received commissions in the 12th Lancers and the Royal West Kent Regiment respectively.

On December 20th Field Marshal Sir John French resigned the command of the British Army in France and Flanders, and was succeeded by General Sir Douglas Haig.

JANUARY—FEBRUARY, 1916

On January 2nd the Royal Scots Greys company and machine gun section of the 5th cavalry battalion entrained at Desvres, its official destination being Bethune. Major Duguid-McCombie was in command and Captain Readman second in command, battalion headquarters being found by the 12th Lancers. On the 4th the company arrived at Vermelles where it went into huts, being in brigade reserve. This did not mean, however, that it was idle, as the normal routine being four days in the front line alternating with four days in support and reserve, the companies in support or reserve finding parties for all fatigues or digging other than in the front line trenches, the bulk of the company, the very first night, were out digging new trenches between the front line and the Germans. The trenches that the Greys were put to work on bore the ill-omened name of Brookwood, but the Greys got through their job that night with only two casualties, Lieut. Sprot and one man wounded. By January 8th they had succeeded in completing the work that they had to do,

when they went into the front line relieving the 3rd Hussars in Section C.1 by the Quarries. From now until February 12th nothing occurred to vary the ordinary course of trench warfare, the 5th cavalry battalion relieving the 4th every three or four days, and in its turn, being relieved by the 3rd battalion. On January 18th Captain Borwick took over command of the company from Major Duguid-McCombie, and on February 6th, it became the Greys' turn to find the battalion headquarters, Major A. Seymour being in command, Major Duguid-McCombie 2nd in command, and Captain E. J. Hardy, adjutant, with Captain Coutts as quartermaster. On February 12th the Greys company took over the trench C.2, which included the Hairpin Trench, relieving the 3rd Hussars. This was the extreme left of the line held by the cavalry.

At 12.30 a.m. on February 13th the Greys exploded a mine near the right leg of the Hairpin, and Lieut. Langton-May with 18 company bombers succeeded in seizing and consolidating the crater thus formed, in spite of most determined efforts on the part of the Germans to dislodge them.* Unfortunately, in this affair, Viscount Weymouth and one man were killed and two others wounded. That evening about 5.40 p.m. the enemy blew in a portion of the line held by the Middlesex Regiment on the Greys' left, and followed this up with a heavy bombardment so that two of their platoons were entirely cut off from the rest of the battalion, and it was found necessary to echelon the 12th Lancers bombers on the left rear of the Greys in case the Germans should work round through the gap. At 10.40 p.m. the Germans exploded a mine in the trenches held by the Greys between the centre and left

* The first time for over one hundred and fifty years that the Regiment had been engaged in mine warfare.

leg of the Hairpin, completely burying two sections of the company, and at once organized a strong bombing attack to try and gain ground in the confusion. In this they were completely foiled. The Greys bombers, supplied with fresh bombs by the 12th Lancers who brought up 100 boxes, maintained their position in the right of the Hairpin, and the company, being reinforced by the 5th Lancers, who were in support, continued to hold their original line beyond the Hairpin and lost no ground. The following extract from a letter that appeared in a Yorkshire newspaper gives an account of this same attack from another aspect :—

“ There were seven of us, Vassie, Ramsay, McLeish, Carter, Jameson, Johnie and I (Dewar). The Germans had blown up a mine in our sap, having tunnelled from their own trenches. We were all pinned down by the heavy timber of the roof and there was total darkness. Carter was killed by the shock of the first explosion. Just on the back of it there was another explosion and the ground under Carter opened up and swallowed him and buried Johnie up to the waist. Ramsay, who was nearest to where the door of the sap had been, started to scrape to make a hole for us to get out and managed it, but he only got his head and shoulders through when a bomb landed in front of his face, killing him instantly. Another part of the roof now dropped down and pinned his body in the back, so there he lay blocking up the door. None of us could move, but I had my arms free. I was next to Ramsay and I wrestled all night to try and get his body out of the doorway, but could not move it. The others were also trying to disentangle themselves and just



before dawn Vassie, who was next me and on the top of my legs, managed to shift and left me more room. I had managed to keep a small hole for air over Ramsay's body, and I now started to dig with my hand under Ramsay's body so as to try and let his body down so that we might get over the top of it. It was a terrible job, as my elbows were pinned, but I at last succeeded and crawled out to find myself now between our trenches and the German. I eventually managed to crawl back to our lines."

The letter goes on to state that the others also got away and got back to the Regiment, and that they had to cut all their equipment off themselves with a razor, which one man luckily had, or they could not have got through the hole. The Scots Greys losses in this action were Lieut. Langton-May killed, and 39 other ranks killed, missing or wounded. The total losses of the company while in the trenches were Lieuts. Viscount Weymouth and Langton-May killed, Lieuts. Lawson-Johnston, Sprot and Bowlby wounded, 9 other ranks killed, 2 died of wounds, 5 missing and 44 wounded, a total of 65 casualties.

The 5th cavalry battalion was relieved by the 9th Essex Regiment on February 14th and marched back to billets at Sailly Labourse, returning to Becourt on the 15th. The following message was sent to the G.O.C. 2nd cavalry division by Major General Mullens commanding the 1st cavalry division, who commanded the dismounted division during its tour of duty in the trenches :—"Whilst I was in command of the dismounted division I was much struck by the excellent discipline and bearing of the Scots Greys. All ranks displayed great keenness and initiative."

CHAPTER VI.

**1st March
1916
to
14th March
1918**

**THE BATTLE OF ARRAS
THE RAID AT GUILLEMONT FARM
THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI
AND
THE BATTLE OF GOUZEAUCOURT**

CHAPTER VI.

The Battle of Arras, the Raid at Guillemont Farm, the Battle of Cambrai and the Battle of Gouzeaucourt.

MARCH-AUGUST

During the period from March to August, the Regiment did not take part in any active operations, and, for the greater part of the time, was attached to the 2nd Army to which the 2nd cavalry division had been allotted, when the cavalry corps, as such, was temporarily done away with on March 3rd. It was, probably, owing to there being no corps commander or staff to see that their requirements were properly attended to, that the cavalry found themselves in the very difficult position of being short of rations for their horses in the autumn of this year. Naturally everything had to be subordinated to the getting over of munitions and, more especially, reserves of shells for the guns for the great offensive that had been planned for the summer of 1916. Even as early as January, the hay ration had been reduced to 7 lbs. per horse, which seems very little to maintain a horse in condition at a time of year when there is no grass or other food available to enable him to make up for such a diminution in bulk. No doubt it was argued that the horses were not likely to be called on to do much service during the coming six months, and the same argument was successfully



applied to the grain and other rations, which were also cut down to the bare minimum which would suffice to keep the horses alive. No one, of course, was so foolish as to think this a wise policy. For the troop horse is just as important a weapon to the cavalry man as the rifle is to the infantry, with the disadvantage that, if it is put away and neglected, the damage is far more serious and is very much more difficult to repair. There is a limit however to the amount of material that can be transported by ships and railways, and very often in war the necessities of the moment impose a course of action which may enormously increase the difficulties of making the best of ones resources at a later date. The irreparable mistake was, that, while only a bare subsistence was being allowed to come through for the horses, no arrangement was being made for building up reserves. Consequently, when the period of strain had passed, it was a long time before it was possible to collect sufficient supplies to enable the ration to be increased. In other ways the breaking up of the cavalry corps did not very greatly affect the cavalry. The Greys did indeed go to the 2nd Army training area and were billeted at Tournhem for a week from April 9th, but April 17th saw them back again at Bécourt, and on May 3rd they went to a new training area at Bonningues. It was there that the Regiment was visited by General Yermoloff on behalf of the Czar. On June 21st the Greys marched *via* Staple to their old billets at Vier Houck where they remained until early in September, when they were moved south to take part in the third phase of the Battle of the Somme. Training was of course the principal occupation of all ranks during this period, and it was modified by certain changes of organization that were introduced as the result of the experience of the past two years ; thus

the brigade had a complete machine gun squadron consisting of three sections which was treated as a separate unit, while the success of the Hotchkiss Rifle led to an increase in the numbers with the Regiment, there being now two per squadron. The teams for these were carefully trained, and all officers and a large number of non-commissioned officers and men were thoroughly instructed in its use. Training in trench warfare was also carefully practised side by side with the mounted work, in which especial attention was paid to the possibilities of having to work over ground pitted with shell holes and much cut up by trenches, where squadrons would probably often have to work on a very narrow front, and then have to deploy with extreme rapidity under fire.

It was on June 25th, just after they had come to Vier Houck, that steel helmets were first issued to all ranks. The appearance of these helmets was not such as to predispose the troops to receive them with favour, and they were also heavy and uncomfortable to wear, being made only in three sizes and depending principally on the chin strap for their precarious balance on the head. As every mounted man knows, the proper control of one's horse is, for some inscrutable reason, very much affected by the proper sitting of one's head-gear, and in one cavalry regiment the commanding officer was so appalled at their appearance and the difficulty of fitting them to the head, that it was not till he had tested the real utility of them by setting his own up on a stick and having six shots at it with his revolver, that he could bring himself to order his men to wear them. In the case of the Greys, however, they were at once received into favour, and for rather a curious reason. A certain number of them had been issued at Vermelles

to the dismounted battalion as trench stores. Naturally Private McConnachie had to try one on at once and his comrades were still laughing at his antics, when a piece of anti-aircraft shell fell full on the helmet. Everyone was horrified, but the helmet remained undented and Private McConnachie, except for a slight headache, was not a ha'porth the worse. This incident effected more, in the way of propaganda in the helmet's favour, than could have been done by twenty lectures with diagrams. The Greys painted on theirs the yellow St. Andrew's cross which was the badge they wore on their khaki helmets in South Africa, where a distinctive badge had been found very useful for identifying detachments of the Regiment. Later on they further improved on the idea, having red for regimental headquarters, yellow for "A" squadron, dark blue for "B" squadron, and light blue with a circle round the centre for "C."

The policy of maintaining the interest of the men in their horses by means of competitions was still adhered to in the division, and in these the Greys had their full measure of success. The regimental horse-show took place on April 8th, which happened to be a perfect day, and, by universal admission, the turn-out of the competitors on that occasion surpassed anything that had been seen in the British Expeditionary Force up to date. Again in the divisional horse-show on May 27th the Greys defied all competition as they took six firsts out of a possible twelve. At this time the Regiment was at Bonningues where it was very fortunate in its billets, having been able to arrange that all the horses should be under cover with good outside standings for them in the day time when the weather was fine.



As usual, when the Regiment was in the back areas, dismounted men were constantly being called for to form working parties, and on June 4th Lieut. Bowlby, while in charge of one of these attached to the 3rd Canadian Division, was unfortunately killed by a shell at a bridge over the canal on the Ypres-Kemmel road. These working parties were a very serious drain on the Regiment and a certain number of men got killed and wounded while with them. At one time, in August, in consequence of so many men being away, the Regiment was reduced to one man to three horses, which of course seriously affected training. The dismounted company was only called for once during this period and that was on June 7th, when it proceeded in motor lorries under the command of Captain Bonham to Reninghelst. Owing to the absence of men on working parties, the platoons, on this occasion, were only 19 strong.* Except for sending out small working parties at night, the company was not otherwise employed, and returned on June 20th.

As regards the personnel of the Regiment, the most important event during this period was the appointment, on April 1st, of General Sir William Robertson to be Colonel of the Regiment. On July 4th four new officers reported for duty—Lieuts. R. Laidlaw and P. H. Roberts receiving commissions in the Regiment, and Lieuts. W. Darling and W. Chassel being attached to it from the general list.

On August 17th an army order was issued to the effect that all ranks, who had been wounded in the war, were to wear gold braid on the left arm.

* The company contained six platoons, each platoon commanded by a subaltern, and each squadron supplying two platoons. As each troop generally found 12 other ranks, the normal strength of a platoon would be 24.

It should be remembered that on June 4th this year summer time was introduced, and consequently events which took place during the rest of the summer of 1916, and during the summer months of subsequent years, have to be considered with reference to the fact that the clock was an hour ahead of the sun.

SEPTEMBER

Early in September H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught returned to the Regiment, and took up the duties of 2nd in command. On September 1st the brigade was warned to be ready to move on the 6th and therefore all working parties detached from it were recalled. The battle of the Somme was now entering on its third phase, and it was hoped that conditions would arise under which cavalry could be employed to exploit the successes gained by the infantry. It was in view of such possibilities that, on September 6th, the 2nd cavalry division, once more a unit in the cavalry corps which had been reformed under the command of General Kavanagh, was marched by easy stages in the direction of the Somme. The 5th cavalry brigade was directed on Amiens until, when within ten miles of that town, it turned eastwards, and on the night of September 12th the division was concentrated in bivouacs just north of Bonnay on the Ancre. On the 13th the horses were dyed, and the commanding officer, adjutant and squadron leaders reconnoitred the "cavalry track" (as the route for their advance, made by filling in trenches and shell holes, was called) running from Mametz, west of Montauban and Longueval, to near High Wood. On the 14th the Greys, together with the rest of the 2nd cavalry division, marched to Bray-sur-Somme, and proceeded to bivouac about a mile to the north-west of that town. Orders were here issued for the battle

on the following day, from which it was apparent that the division was expected to reach Bapaume. On the 15th the brigade stood-to ready to move at half an hour's notice, but was not called on to act, and ceased to stand-to at dusk. After standing-to again the whole of the following day, the orders for the advance were definitely cancelled. On September 25th there were again hopes of the cavalry being employed, but again nothing materialised, and the Regiment never left its bivouac. The outstanding cause for the failure of these operations on the Somme was the mud. From September 10th until the end of the month it rained practically without intermission, and to move wheeled traffic of any description became almost an impossibility, while even the infantry could only move with difficulty. Naturally the state of the horse lines at Bray, where a whole division was crammed together in a space that would have been a very tight fit for a brigade, was absolutely appalling.

OCTOBER

On October 2nd the brigade was moved back to Morlancourt, but conditions were very little improved as the rain went on all through October, the men and horses being still in bivouac and in very cramped quarters. This waiting for the "gap" as the breaking through of the enemy's trench line was always described in orders for the cavalry, was a very trying experience both for men and horses, for, naturally, everything was subordinated to the tactical situation, and the horses often remained saddled up for hours together. Jammed up together almost as close as if they were in a railway truck, exposed to the incessant rain that was the almost invariable accompaniment of the British offensives at this time, standing up to their hocks in

mud, and with their rations cut down to the veriest minimum, the wretched horses took many weeks to get over the hardships that they incurred, and the conditions for the men were very little better. Small wonder that the cavalryman got to display but a modified enthusiasm when he was informed by his superiors that his energies were again going to be directed towards the "G" in "gap."

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

At last on November 8th this waiting came to an end, and the Greys were moved by Amiens and Neuilly to billets at Vacquerie-le-Boucq, about 20 miles north-east of Abbeville on the high ground between the valleys of the Canche and the Authie. The usual programme of winter training was drawn up, and the Greys, with their horses once more under cover, were able to start on the task of nursing them back into condition. In this—always a difficult job, for once a horse has got really run down it is a very long time before he shows any improvement—they were very much handicapped by the scale of rations that they were allowed, 7 lbs. of oats being the maximum for each horse. The reason for this very small allowance was partly the success of the German submarine campaign which made it difficult for imported grain to be brought into France, but still more was it due to the policy pursued in the early part of the year which has already been touched upon.

Just before the 2nd cavalry division left the Somme, it lost its commander, General Sir Philip Chetwode, who was appointed to the command of an army corps. He was succeeded by General W. H. Greenly, C.M.G., D.S.O.

The usual policy of draining cavalry units of men while they were in a back area, was begun again at Vacquerie-le-Boucq, and orders were issued for the formation of a pioneer battalion from the brigade on somewhat similar lines to the dismounted battalion. Luckily it was decided not to go on with the scheme at this time, and the brigade was able to devote itself to its training programme and the building up of its horses. No amount of care, however, could make up for the insufficiency of the ration, the ill-effects of which were destined to be severely felt during the coming April and the months following.

JANUARY-MARCH, 1917

With the New Year came a long list of honours as a reward for services during the war, and the Greys received three D.S.O.'s (Major (temp. Lt.-Col.) A. G. Seymour, Captain E. J. Hardy and Captain F. A. U. Pickering), three Brevets (Major (temp. Brig.-Gen.) W. Long, C.M.G., D.S.O., Captain P. R. Laurie, D.S.O., Captain H. D. Denison-Pender, M.C.) and one M.C. (Captain Viscount Ebrington). There was also a gracious New Year's message from the Czar of Russia, the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief. At the end of January the Regiment suffered a very serious loss through the death of Brig.-Gen. Long, who was killed in action on January 25th.* The funeral took place at Couin Cemetery on the 29th. All the senior officers of the Greys attended with a party of 14 non-commissioned officers, and seven regimental trumpeters sounded the last post. The Guard of Honour and firing party were formed from the 56th infantry brigade, which he was commanding at the time of his death,

* He was the elder son of the Rt. Hon. W. H. Long, afterwards created Lord Long of Wraxall.

and the 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. He had gone to this battalion as Lieut.-Col. in December, 1915, at a time when the infantry were very short of experienced senior officers, his family having been closely connected with Wiltshire for many generations. The numerous units that were represented at the funeral were particularly appropriate in the case of General Long. It is no exaggeration to say that during the war and for several years before it, he was about the best known and most popular officer in the British Army, and with reason, for, while he shone in every manly accomplishment, and was ever ready to join, without counting the risk, in anything that promised to provide sport or amusement, yet he insisted, both for himself and for those with whom he was intimate, on a very high standard of personal honour and a constant attention to the calls of duty. In war such a man was, of course, an ideal regimental officer, and on being promoted to higher rank he had given proofs of a military capacity which made his early death peculiarly tragic.

Early in February the Greys were moved from Vacquerie-le-Boucq to Conchil le Temple, a village which lies among the sandhills that fringe the coast all the way from Abbeville to Boulogne. The winter had been exceptionally severe and there was almost continuous frost all through January and the first week of February, but the weather now began to improve, and the sands at Berck-sur-Mer afforded ample scope for every description of regimental training. This was fortunate as there had been several changes in organization: the machine guns, as has already been mentioned, had been brigaded as the 5th machine gun squadron; the offensive power of each squadron had

THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS

been increased by the provision of a Hotchkiss rifle for each troop, so that the troop organization now consisted of three sections and a Hotchkiss rifle section, which was known as the Hotchkiss rifle detachment, and was organized as follows :—

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Horses.</i>
Observer - - -	1	1
Gun Numbers - -	2	2
Ammunition Carrier -	1	1
Pack Leader - -	1	2
Horse-holders - -	2	2

In addition the Hotchkiss rifle detachments of two troops in each squadron included an ammunition pack, so that in these two troops the detachment was 8 men and 10 horses. These two packs formed the squadron reserve of ammunition. Towards the end of March a new and improved pack was introduced and, simultaneously with the fitting of this and the accustoming of men and horses to its use, an intensive training of the Hotchkiss rifle detachment was carried on, and various competitions were initiated still further to improve the men in its use. For these purposes the sea shore and the sandhills immediately adjacent to it afforded an admirable training ground.

APRIL 1st-3th

The coming of Spring envisaged the new offensive. It was felt that we had either got to turn the Germans out of their positions or to face the alternative of waiting, with gradually dwindling man-power, to be attacked by them at the time and place that suited them best. All through the winter training and

organization in the cavalry had been devoted with entire singleness of purpose to making the arm still better adapted to the duty of co-operation with the infantry and the exploiting of their successful attacks, which was still hoped would transform a war of position into a war of movement. As Sir William Robertson said in his address to the Regiment after inspecting them on February 19th, "The first few weeks of the war were very hard on you. Since then you have not had your chance, but I know now that, when the time comes, you will take advantage of it. No doubt, all being well, you will have your chance this year." However the oat ration for the horses was not increased until just before the order was given to move, and up till the middle of March there was a constant whittling away of the officers and men available for mounted work to attend courses and other duties, although the Regiment was still finding an average of 240 other ranks with the necessary officers for the 5th brigade pioneer battalion.

On April 5th the Regiment marched out from Conchil le Temple with a strength of 28 officers, 380 other ranks and 440 horses. That the horses were not in condition to face the hardships that were required of them, was due to no fault of the Greys, as has already been explained; everything that care and attention could do had been done and consequently they looked a good deal fitter than they were. On April 8th the Regiment went into billets at Grincourt lez Pas and operation orders were issued for the following day.* Under the orders issued to the brigade, their final objective was a position some 14 miles to the south-east of Arras on the

* It must be remembered that summer time this year had come into force on March 24th, so, in these operations, as in all others during the ensuing summer, the clock was an hour in advance of the sun.

Arras-Cambrai road. The total distance from Grincourt lez Pas was quite 30 miles.

APRIL 9th

At 9.30 a.m. on the 9th the brigade marched off and moving principally at a trot, with the Greys leading, reached its first position of readiness at Ronville, a suburb of Arras, a march of some 18 miles. From this point the "cavalry track" was followed to "The Harp," a network of trenches recently occupied by the Germans, about half a mile south of Tilloy-lez-Mofflaines

Only a few shells greeted the appearance of the brigade on the high ground immediately beyond Tilloy, but the first of them killed two of the Grey's horses and wounded four men. The brigade waited here, getting such cover as it could from shells and weather, it being a very cold windy day, until 11 p.m. without being called on to act as the situation was not favourable to cavalry, when it marched back to billets in Wailly about four miles south of Arras, arriving there at 3.45 a.m. on the 10th. The brigade had marched about 25 miles without water and been saddled up for 19 hours.

APRIL 10th

At 9 a.m. the brigade again stood-to ready to move off at an hour's notice—the day being very cold with heavy snowstorms—and at 1 p.m. marched as quickly as possible *via* Ronville and the "cavalry track" to "The Harp," which was reached at 3.45 p.m. About 5 p.m. the brigade received orders to move to its second position of readiness about one mile north-west of Wancourt, and at the same time to send out patrols to get into touch with the infantry in the trenches. The Greys were now quite close to the German firing-line, and the three patrols, on being sent out, at once came under heavy fire, the officers with two of them (Lieuts.

Lawson-Johnston and Filmer) being hit, but the third, a corporal and three men under Lieut. Dale-Lace, succeeded in getting through. Lieut. Dale-Lace first got in touch with the Royal Scots forming part of the 3rd infantry division, who were on the left of the line. As they could not give him much information, he proceeded down the trench towards Wancourt, where he got in touch with the 7th Rifle Brigade belonging to the 41st brigade, 14th division. They had received information from their brigade that Wancourt had been captured, and had been ordered to seize and consolidate a position to the north-east of it. On advancing to do this they came under heavy fire from Wancourt and had to retire. Lieut. Dale-Lace* was able to send back information to the Regiment that Wancourt was still held by the enemy, together with details as to their machine gun and artillery positions. Consequently, when the brigade came over the high ground between Tilloy and Wancourt, the regiments were opened out into line of troop columns and covered the intervening ground, on their way to the new position, at the gallop, suffering very slight casualties, only a few horses being hit. Fortunately, at the moment of the advance, a heavy snowstorm came on which partially concealed from view the swiftly moving masses of men, but made it very much more difficult for the colonel and squadron leaders of the Greys who were the leading regiment. It was marvellous how the leaders were able to keep their direction at top speed in the blinding storm, and the way that the troops managed to thread their way through the trenches and shell holes showed what a very handy and flexible formation line of troop columns is for an advance over rough ground. On their arrival

* Lieut. Dale-Lace remained out with his patrol until the cavalry were withdrawn from Wancourt on April 12th, sending in most accurate and detailed reports of all that went on.

at the new position, the Greys found that they were only about a hundred and fifty yards behind our infantry, who were facing the Germans at about two hundred yards range. The horses were distributed in batches of four to six, and the men took shelter in shell holes. A re-entrant in the side of the hill provided cover from view to a certain extent. The night was extremely cold, and there was heavy and almost continuous shelling which caused many casualties throughout the brigade.* Acting on information received from Lieut. Dale-Lace who, in spite of the very heavy fire to which they were subjected, kept in the closest touch with the infantry throughout the operations, the colonel pushed forward four Hotchkiss rifles from the Regiment to support the 3rd infantry division, who were on the left of our brigade, in case the Germans should make a counter-attack.

APRIL 11th

At dawn on the 11th the German shell fire became even more intense and the casualties began to mount up alarmingly. Luckily at 7 a.m. the order came to withdraw, as our own artillery were going to put down a barrage to the west of Wancourt. After leading their horses for a short distance, the Greys mounted and trotted back to the high ground near Tilloy, losing several pack horses on the way, which fell into shell holes and were so exhausted that they could not be got out and had to be destroyed. There being nothing to be gained by remaining close up behind the front line, the infantry never having really attained their first objective, the brigade remained halted at Tilloy till about noon, when it moved back to "The Harp," and two hours later the Greys returned to their billets at

* Captain Elliot, R.A.M.C., the medical officer in charge of the Regiment, was awarded the M.C. for his work on this night.

Wailly. The horses had been saddled up for 28 hours, and had had only two very small feeds. They had to go without water from dawn on the 10th until dusk on the 11th as, even in Wailly, it was not safe to water them by daylight. Consequently, after these operations, they were absolutely exhausted, and about 20 of them died that night. The total losses in horses for the Regiment during the three days were :—killed, 56 ; missing, 6 ; wounded, 23 ; died from exhaustion and destroyed, 31 ; making a total of 116. During the next few days a further 39 either died or had to be sent away to the Base.

APRIL 12th

On April 12th the Regiment, after standing-to for the whole morning in case it should be required, marched back in the afternoon to Grincourt, 105 men or about one-third of its effectives being dismounted. The Greys casualties in personnel for the three days were :—2 officers and 26 other ranks killed and wounded. In this they were more lucky than the 12th Lancers who were the rear regiment in the withdrawal and lost 7 officers and 66 men. So ended the battle of Arras, which is computed to have cost the cavalry corps something like 1,600 horses in killed alone.

APRIL 13th-30th

Shortly after the operations, General Greenly, commanding the 2nd cavalry division, issued the following order :—

“ The difficulties and great and continued discomfort entailed by the conditions experienced since the Division moved from the Ligescourt area have been met in a spirit of never-failing cheeriness and soldierly determination to make the best of things on the part of all ranks, which is beyond all praise

and has my most sincere admiration. The health of the men, due to their fitness at starting and their determination not to go sick, does them and all concerned the greatest credit. These conditions, however, following on a long period of semi-starvation of the horses have very seriously reduced the fighting efficiency of the Division as regards mobility in spite of the determined efforts made by all to reduce the ill effects to a minimum. The vile weather we have been having cannot in the nature of things last much longer and after the move of the Division has been completed we shall, I hope, be under conditions of quarters, stabling and forage, which will afford every facility for improving the condition of the horses and recovering complete efficiency in every way. How long this period of opportunity will last it is impossible to say, but there is no doubt that in a comparatively short time we shall again be required to be at the top of our form in every way and there is therefore not a minute to lose. I am perfectly confident that all ranks will thoroughly realise this and will spare no effort to get things right again quickly. It must be a point of honour on the part of every individual to do all that he can so as to complete the efficiency of everything for which he is responsible in the shortest time possible. I am equally certain that results will very quickly speak for themselves, when once the conditions allow, and that improvement will be rapid beyond all belief."

Certainly there was no delay on the part of the authorities in starting the work of repairing the losses incurred between April 10th and 12th, as 23 remounts

arrived on April 13th, followed by a further draft of 68 on the 15th, while the ration for the horses was at once brought up to 12 lbs. of oats, 12 lbs. of hay, and 2 lbs. of bran. Very few of the new remounts, however, were grey in colour. During the past eighteen months the Regiment had been very successful in maintaining the distinctive colouring of its horses, and what coloured horses it had were mostly in the echelons and not in squadrons, but at an inspection of the Regiment held at the end of the month, out of 534 horses only 337 were greys.

While the Regiment was at Grincourt, the funeral took place of Brig.-Gen. Bulkeley-Johnson, A.D.C., who fell at the head of his brigade at Monchy le Preux almost within sight of his old Regiment. All the senior officers and the trumpeters, together with a firing party and escort of 30 other ranks attended the funeral at Gouy-en-Artois, which was only 8 miles from Grincourt. Colonel Bulkeley-Johnson had been in command of the Greys for three years when the war broke out, and commanded them continuously in the field until, at the end of 1914, he was appointed to the command of the 8th cavalry brigade. In the early months of the war the Greys found themselves in many tight places. That they invariably extricated themselves with credit and with comparatively light casualties, was largely due to the soundness of the training they had received during the term of his command. He was a born leader of men; cool and resolute in action, he inspired confidence and affection among all with whom he had to deal, and was invariably served with whole-hearted devotion. Not a few of those who were present at this last farewell from his old Regiment, must have cast their memories back to the stirring

address he made to them on the Knavesmire before they left for France, when he said that, great as the difficulties and the hardships might be that lay before them in France, there was nothing that they would not be able to surmount with credit if only they remained true to the traditions of the Greys. Worthily had he himself lived up to those traditions, and he gave up his life in making sure that everything had been done, as far as lay in the power of human foresight, to minimise the difficulties and dangers of the advance of his brigade on Monchy.

On April 16th the Regiment moved to billets at Lucheux where all the horses were accommodated under cover and rugs provided for them. Lucheux was an ideal spot for the horses to recuperate in, lying as it does in a little valley facing full south with a rippling stream at the bottom, and sheltered on all sides by wooded hills. Here the horses were constantly taken out to graze and got the full benefit of the fresh young grass and the pleasantly tempered warmth of an April sun. For the time being mounted parades were dispensed with and exercise was restricted to one hour's walking a day. On April 20th the rest of the brigade were moved to new billets on the river Authie further to the west, but the Greys managed to stay on in their comfortable quarters at Lucheux.

MAY

When on May 10th they rejoined the rest of the brigade at Havernas on their way to the Somme, their horses were in very different fettle to what they had been in a month before. After keeping along the Somme as far as Peronne and passing through the desolated area, where all ranks felt their animosity against the German greatly increased by the wanton and purpose-

less destruction that they had inflicted on the country during their withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, the brigade went into bivouac just north-west of Hamel. The object of bringing the brigade here was to utilise the cavalry again in the trenches, the 3rd cavalry brigade already holding the line close to Lempire and Guillemont Farm. The Greys, on this occasion, formed a complete dismounted battalion of three squadrons of 100 rifles each, with Major Duguid-McCombie in command. As usual on such occasions the grooming state of the Regiment fell to one man for three horses but, the weather being good and the grazing continued, the horses did not suffer, as the men, who were told off to look after them, were not taken away for other duties. Until the end of the month the Greys dismounted battalion was in support to the 16th Lancers, but on May 31st it took over a sector of trenches. This sector was in very bad order, and very much overlooked by the Germans, so that repairs to the wire and parapet had to be done by night.

JUNE 1st-9th

The two lines at this point were almost touching and the remains of Guillemont Farm lay half in the British and half in the German trenches. As the situation was rather uncertain, and it was possible that the enemy was undertaking mining operations on a large scale, the divisional commander decided that a raid should take place for exploration and the capture of some prisoners for identification and interrogation. Guillemont Farm was selected as the scene of the raid and the Greys were ordered to carry it out. Two parties were detailed for the raid, one under Lieut. Lord Binning from a squadron that had been in the trenches near Guillemont about a week previously, and the other

JUNE 10th

under Lieut. Cator from men who had been in the line until three days before. Many of the men had been up to the German trenches on patrol and knew the ground well, while the two officers, as soon as the raid was ordered, had reconnoitred the enemy lines at about 4 a.m. every morning in order to find out all they could about the enemy movements and dispositions. The Brigadier (General Campbell) had also gone up more than once with Captain Borwick, who was in charge of the operation, and had assisted the latter in the rehearsal and planning of the raid. Aerial photographs were also taken of the German positions, and a model of the trenches to be attacked was laid out behind the lines, and the men carefully rehearsed their part in the raid in the clothing they were to wear on the night selected. It was decided not to have a preliminary bombardment, but a Stokes mortar battery was brought up to clear the enemy trenches before the raid started. Thanks to the very careful rehearsal and preparation, the raid was crowned with success. The two parties paraded in steel helmets and cardigans with a white band on each arm, and at 2.15 a.m. on June 10th, directly the Stokes mortar bombardment ceased, they were in the enemy trenches. Lord Binning's party met with practically no opposition, and Lieut. Cator's with only a very little, which was easily overcome, and the two parties met in the centre of the enemy's trench having killed or captured the whole garrison. In fact so completely were the enemy surprised, that the parties found themselves with ten minutes to spare before the green rockets were to go up to signal their return. This time was devoted to searching the dead and various dugouts for papers and so forth, and punctually at the hour appointed the two

raiding parties, on whom the Germans were now directing a considerable shell fire, returned to their trenches. They had killed 56 Germans and taken 14 prisoners with a total loss to themselves of two killed and five wounded, and even their dead were brought back into our trenches with them. The complete success, with which this raid was carried out, was due principally to the very careful preliminary preparations, to the fine leadership of the officers, and to the wonderful discipline and coolness of all the men who took part in it. A striking instance of this last quality appears in the fact that the telephone operator, who accompanied Lord Binning's party, kept Captain Borwick informed of the whole progress of the raid, and the latter was thus enabled to keep brigade headquarters in touch with everything that was going forward.

Lord Binning and Lieut. Cator received the M.C. as an immediate reward, and eleven other ranks were granted the Military Medal. The men were in no way specially picked troops, being volunteers from those performing their ordinary duties in the trenches, which they continued to carry out both before and after the raid.

JUNE 11th

On the night of June 11th, the Germans attempted to retaliate, but their attack was easily beaten off, though Lord St. Germans, who was in command of the relieving squadron, was unfortunately wounded.

JUNE 12th-30th

The Greys dismounted battalion remained in this sector until the 14th when it was relieved by the 5th Lancers, and returned to Hamel. The following letter

to the commanding officer from Major General Greenly, commanding the 2nd cavalry division, was published in orders on the 17th :—

“ On your Regiment going out of the line, I want to tell you how very especially well they have done during their turn of duty. and to congratulate you and all ranks on their quite admirable services. I am not by any means only referring to the extremely successful raid they brought off and the splendid fighting qualities they showed in doing so, but also to their excellent work and in fact to the way they all did whatever they had to do.”

JULY

The rest of the month was spent at Hamel, the Regiment finding various working parties, and on the 27th the dismounted party proceeded to the neighbourhood of Epehy to take over a sector of trenches there, and remained in them till the night of July 7th, when they were relieved by the 15th Sherwood Foresters. These trenches were an improvement on those round Guillemont, as they were not overlooked by the enemy and were very well wired. Consequently the Regiment had a comparatively easy time and the casualties were not numerous. On the 10th the brigade was moved back along the Somme to Bray and then northwards, through its old billets at Lucheux, to Wamin, 20 miles west of Arras, where it was destined to remain for some time. During the month of July, the cavalry having now got back to their horses, which, in the case of the Greys, had quite got over the ill effects of the hardships they had undergone in the Spring, regimental, brigade and divisional horse-shows were much encouraged by the authorities with a view to getting those regiments, who had not profited by their opportunities, a chance

of learning some lessons in horse management from those that had. In these shows the Greys were especially prominent, and at the divisional horse show more than held their own, taking, among other prizes, the first for officers' chargers, both light and heavy, and also General Greenly's special prize for the best all-round troop, which was won by Lieut. Crawford's troop of "A" squadron.

AUGUST

All through August, training went busily on, although the Regiment had a dismounted party detached for pioneering work. Naturally, special attention was paid to the Hotchkiss rifle, a weapon of which the worth had been proved on many occasions, both in the field and in the trenches. (On June 5th it had been employed by "B" squadron to such effect on a German working party that a special retaliation fire of 4.2 howitzers was directed on their trenches to keep it quiet.) The Scots Greys in a divisional competition for the best Hotchkiss team were first in the 5th brigade, but had to take second place to a team of the 3rd Hussars from the 4th brigade, who scored full marks in every detail of the competition except one.

SEPTEMBER

During September a working party of 4 officers and 116 other ranks was detached from the Regiment to Les Brebis, where it was employed at Loos laying water pipes up Hill 70 to the front line. This was a most dangerous task as the work had to be done in the open, and the Regiment suffered several casualties. It was at Les Brebis that the chaplain, the Rev. W. Paterson, won the Military Cross for attending to the wounded under fire. He had been with the Regiment

in the South African war, and was with it again in France from early 1915 to April 1918. Absolutely fearless and devoted, he deservedly won the greatest respect and affection from those to whom he ministered.

OCTOBER

On October 8th the brigade was moved up to Belval in the St. Pol area, in case of eventualities at Ypres, but on the 18th was moved down to Famechon south-west of Amiens.

On October 25th, Lieuts. Dugdale, Ackroyd and the Earl of Altamont joined.

NOVEMBER 1st-19th

Early in November, it was common knowledge that important operations were likely to take place in the near future, and that the cavalry would certainly be employed. The secret as to when the blow was to fall was, however, very well kept, and though leave was not stopped, very few applied for it, as they were so afraid of missing the chance for which they had so long been waiting. On November 16th the Regiment marched to Marcelcave, and on the following day to Montecourt, where it was accommodated in tents.

NOVEMBER 20th

November 15th was spent by the divisional and brigade staffs in perfecting their preparations for the battle, and, on the afternoon of the 19th, "B" and "C" squadrons went off to be attached to the Canadian cavalry brigade who were to be employed on a special mission. On the 20th the brigade, less "B" and "C" squadrons, Royal Scots Greys, moved off at 1.30 a.m. to their final point of assembly north-east of Saulcourt, where it remained till 11 a.m., when it moved to Gouzeaucourt. In the afternoon it was

NOVEMBER 21st

moved to the sunken road two miles west of Masnières, and remained there, in conjunction with the other two brigades of the division, awaiting the order to advance to the east of Cambrai to cut off the enemy. Messages were received from the Canadian brigade, who were on the right of the line, that although a tank had blocked the bridge over the canal at Masnières, a squadron had effected a crossing elsewhere, and had taken possession of the village. Consequently orders to advance were expected at any moment. The opportunity for a break-through had, however, already gone. The Germans, working on interior lines had already pushed up large masses of machine guns into Cambrai to neutralise the successes of the tanks, and the use of cavalry on a big scale was no longer possible. The brigade bivouaced for the night in the pouring rain, and remained in position till 3.30 p.m. on the following day, when it withdrew along the cavalry track, which by now consisted of a quagmire with holes in it, to Saulcourt where "B" and "C" squadrons rejoined the Regiment.

NOVEMBER 23rd-24th

On the 23rd the Regiment was suddenly moved up to the Bois Dessart between Gouzeaucourt and Fins, and bivouaced there for the night; a few tents and some small shelters were found for the men, but it was very hard on the horses in the snow and rain, and the Regiment was glad to get back to Saulcourt on the following day. Even on the 25th all hope of a break-through had not been entirely abandoned, and at 7.30 a.m. the brigade was moved through Ribécourt to exploit the success which was expected to follow on the Guards' attack at Bournonville. During this movement

THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS

NOVEMBER 25th

Lieut. Filmer was killed by a shell. By the afternoon, however, it was obvious that it would be all that the British forces could do to hold on to their own positions, and orders were given to the 5th cavalry brigade to form a dismounted battalion to go at once into the trenches. The Greys supplied headquarters, the battalion being under the command of Lt.-Col. W. F. Collins, and the company under Captain Borwick. The led horses were sent back to Fins under Major W. M. Duguid-McCombie. The battalion, when formed, was apparently entirely forgotten, as it was left on the side of the road with no orders and no billets. However, by the energy of the company leaders and with the assistance of the Guards, shelter was found for the men in and around Ribécourt.

NOVEMBER 26th

On the 26th the battalion moved up, the men carrying three days' rations, to occupy trenches in the Hindenburg support line, 300 yards west of Flesquieres. As an earnest of what they might expect when they got there, they had attached to them 27 men from the cavalry field ambulance. On their way they passed one of the most remarkable sights of the war—nine British tanks which had been put out of action by a German gunner-major, who had fired at them with direct fire and was found lying dead beside his gun with the nearest tank within 50 yards of him.

NOVEMBER 27th

In the Hindenburg line, battalion headquarters secured a German dugout of unusual splendour, which must have been the seat of a very important commander. It was in three storeys ; the top one, in which there was an

excellent stove, being the kitchen, the next the sitting-room, and the bottom one the bedrooms. The walls were all panelled with stained wood. Unfortunately the battalion were not destined to remain in these luxurious quarters for long. The 5th dismounted battalion were under the orders of the G. O. C., the 4th cavalry brigade, and at 7.30 a.m. on the 27th, his brigade major arrived, full of apologies, to state that the battalion's real destination was another part of the Hindenburg line on the canal bank west of Grincourt, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours' march away, and that it had got to be in this new position at 8.30 a.m. Apart from this being a physical impossibility, the men had not had breakfast when the brigade major arrived. The one redeeming point of trench warfare that turns night into day, lies in the fact that the time between dawn and dusk, except when an attack is in progress, is practically non-existent for all such military purposes as reliefs, but, in spite of this, the brigade major could not see his way to vary, in any respect, the orders that he conveyed from his General, Lt.-Col. Collins, therefore, closed the discussion by saying that 11 o'clock was the hour at which the battalion was going to be at the new rendezvous, and it was so. So the 5th dismounted battalion got their breakfasts, and nothing more was ever heard of the matter. After a long march in the pouring rain, it found itself in another elaborate trench system, with large underground rooms attached, but the only use that they could be put to, was to pile the men's British warms in them under a guard, as the battalion was ordered to stand-to in readiness to march to Bourlon Wood. The battalion now came under the orders of Brig.-General Bradford, V.C., the youngest brigadier in the British Army, who was unfortunately killed by a stray shell two or three days later. He

directed it to join the 3rd and 4th dismounted battalions in the centre of Bourlon Wood which they were to take over from two battalions of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who were utterly worn out owing to the very severe fighting in which they had been engaged. The 12th Lancers and 20th Hussars companies were put in the front line with the Greys in support. During the relief there was a good deal of shelling, and Lieut. Silvertop, 20th Hussars, was killed. Early the next morning the 12th Lancer company began to lose very heavily owing to the constant German attacks and the fact that, as all their pack animals carrying their entrenching tools had been killed on the way up, they had not been able to dig themselves in properly. Owing to the shortage of men it was not feasible to carry out the counter-attack, which had been ordered, with any prospect of success, especially as the line, now being held by us, was practically coincident with that which it was considered necessary to establish. General Bradford, who arrived shortly afterwards, concurred in this decision. The 12th Lancers, who were reinforced by two platoons from the Scots Greys under Lieut. Knowles, continued to lose heavily, and at last Captain Richardson, 12th Lancers, with a bullet wound through his thigh, reported personally at battalion headquarters that all the other 12th Lancer officers with the company had been either killed or wounded. Lieut. Dudgeon, Scots Greys, was then sent over to the company to take command, and did most excellent work in re-organizing the line and, though himself wounded in the foot, remained on duty until relieved. For his conduct on this occasion Lieut. Dudgeon was awarded the M.C., while Sergeant Purvis and Private Tritton were awarded the Military Medal for their gallantry on this day. At 8 p.m. the 18th London Regiment relieved the

battalion, but the relief was very difficult to effect owing to the greatly increased enemy shelling, which included a lot of gas shell. Gas masks had to be put even on the wounded, and some of these delirious cowed men with their hands secured to keep the mask from being torn off, were to be seen sitting in the cellars that formed indiscriminately headquarters and dressing station, muttering and chattering, and adding an uncanny touch to the scene. As a result the men had to march back to Flesquieres in small detachments as they were relieved. Among our casualties was Private R. Riddell,* the champion boxer of the Greys, and a most gallant soldier.

On getting back to Flesquieres, battalion headquarters found their luxurious three-story dugout occupied, but were not unduly perturbed, as on the 29th, it "stopped one," and the five officers who occupied it and who were having breakfast in the "kitchen," were all killed. The battalion, when collected, marched to Ribécourt where it was met by its horses, and rejoined the brigade at Fins.

The total losses of the battalion were—officers killed, 3; wounded, 6; other ranks killed, 10; wounded, 101, and 8 missing.

NOVEMBER 28th

Captain Elliot, R.A.M.C., the medical officer to the Regiment, did not return with the battalion. This gallant officer had already dressed 360 wounded during the 26 hours' occupation of Bourlon Wood, but he asked leave to stop on to help the medical officer with the infantry, and remained with them during the whole of their occupation. He rejoined the Regiment just in time to go into action with it at Gouzeaucourt.

* Pte. Riddell was found by Capt. Elliot who asked him if he could do anything for him, receiving the reply, "No, just dig a hole for me, and look after the others." Pte. Riddell died a few minutes later.

NOVEMBER 30th

To those who had been at Bourlon Wood, the fact that things were not going well was amply evident, and so it did not come as a surprise when, about 10 a.m. on the morning of the 30th, orders were received to saddle up at once. General Greenly was away visiting the Royal Horse Artillery of the division, so General Campbell was in command, and Lt.-Col. Collins in command of the 5th brigade. The rumour was that the Germans had broken through between Masnières and Epehy and had occupied Gouzeaucourt. Lt.-Col. Collins at once sent out patrols from the Greys and the 20th Hussars, and in a short space of time got back the information that the railway line east of Gouzeaucourt was held, but that the village was not occupied. The brigade advanced mounted towards Gouzeaucourt, but the next report was that the Germans had taken up a line on the heights to the west of the village, and General Greenly, who by this time had returned, decided that the opportunity for mounted action had passed, and that any attack now made would have to be on foot. Accordingly the 20th Hussars, under Colonel Cooke, made an attack in conjunction with the Guards brigade, and drove the enemy back to a line on the east side of Gouzeaucourt. "A" squadron, the Greys, were next the 20th Hussars and conformed to their movements. The Regiment was then moved to Revelon farm which was being heavily shelled, and early on the 1st December was withdrawn to Fins, having lost one sergeant killed and 7 other ranks wounded.

DECEMBER

There happened to be in Gouzeaucourt a dump of rum which proved a military obstacle of some importance. It undoubtedly held up the German attack and had effect on our counter-attack.

The brigade stood-to mounted at half an hour's notice during December 2nd and 3rd, sending up working parties each night to the trenches, and on the 4th a dismounted battalion was sent up to the reserve trenches north-west of Revelon farm. The Greys company was under the command of Captain Bonham, and consisted of five officers and 160 other ranks. On December 5th the dismounted battalion was withdrawn, and on the 6th the brigade marched through Catigny and Blangy-Tronville to billets at Aumont, north-west of Amiens.

In spite of the hardships they had had to undergo, the horses suffered very little, having been in hard condition at the start and General Greenly, with reference to the services of the division at the battle of Cambrai, issued the following order :—

“ General Sir Julian Byng, commanding the 3rd Army, wishes to express his warmest thanks to the troops and his appreciation of the valuable services they have rendered especially in their defence of Bourlon Wood. I wish to congratulate all ranks of the division upon the admirable way in which you met the many and varied demands made upon you in the recent operations—fighting, work, continuous exposure and want of rest were all carried through with a courage and determination that no troops could surpass—and I wish once again to record my deepest admiration and appreciation of your conduct and services. I wish also to congratulate all concerned, but especially the squadron and troop leaders, upon the present condition of the horses. The fact that they have maintained their efficiency as they

have, is not only proof of the good working condition in which you have produced them, but also the best reward for the unremitting work and care generously devoted to them."

About this time news reached the Regiment of the death of Major F. A. V. Pickering, D.S.O., while commanding the 9th Rifle Brigade. This gallant and popular officer had no opportunity of service with the Regiment during the war. In August, 1914, he was adjutant of a Yeomanry regiment with which he served in Gallipoli. Afterwards he was employed on the Staff, and later in command of a battalion, in which capacity he greatly distinguished himself.

On December 18th the dismounted battalion was again formed, with Colonel Fane, 12th Lancers, as commanding officer, and Captain S. J. Hardy, Scots Greys, as 2nd in command, and sent to Vendelles.

JANUARY

The Scots Greys company (10 officers and 200 other ranks under Captain Bonham) had a lot of hard work and experienced very bad weather most of the time, but was relieved periodically by fresh drafts of officers and men from the Regiment. It did not return from the trenches until January 28th, 1918. While at Aumont, the officers of the Regiment got a certain amount of sport when off duty with the assistance of the local gardes champêtres, Lieut. Holland-Hibbert having "collected" some hounds from Barley. The bag was very varied, but included foxes, some of which gave quite good runs.

FEBRUARY

On February 6th the brigade moved from Aumont to Ennemain just east of the Somme canal in the

devastated area, the whole of the cavalry corps being concentrated in this neighbourhood with a view to rendering support to Gough's 5th Army when the attack, which was expected to be delivered by the enemy in this area, materialised.

MARCH

At the beginning of March, the 2nd cavalry division took over a portion of the front line east of Vermand, and the 5th dismounted battalion went up in support, the Greys' company under Captain Lord Leven, consisting of 7 officers and 206 other ranks. While here, a German deserter walked up to our trenches one morning in a thick fog. He stated that a shell had destroyed their kitchen in which were stored their rations for three days. He also said that the German system of rationing did not allow these rations to be replaced, and that therefore they would have nothing to eat for that time. He thought that other men would also desert in order to be fed. The next morning Lieut. Laidlaw walked over in the fog to the enemy trenches, hoping to bring back more deserters. He talked to the Germans for a few minutes, but just when things looked promising, a German N.C.O. came up and the conversation came to an abrupt end, Lieut. Laidlaw being lucky to get back to our trenches. We replied to the enemy fire with bully beef tins, but instead of containing meat, they were filled with Mill's bombs.

After a week the battalion was withdrawn, and on March 14th the 2nd cavalry division was attached to the 3rd Corps, the Greys moving to Quesmy.

During March, Lieuts. the Hon. A. F. Baring, Sir Adrian Baillie,* Lord Kingsborough and B. Worrall joined the Regiment.

* A brother of Sir Gawaine Baillie who was killed in 1914.

CHAPTER VII.

**15th March
to
31st July
1918**

**THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE
ON THE
WESTERN FRONT**

CHAPTER VII.

The German Offensive on the
Western Front.

MARCH 15th-20th

The German offensive, of which the approximate time and place had long been foretold, had an initial success that could hardly have been greater if it had come as a complete surprise. One of the principal reasons for this was, perhaps, the comparatively meagre results of all previous offensives during the past three years. Right up to the moment when the Germans actually broke through, there seems to have been no idea in spite of our weakness in effectives and the enormous number of troops that the Germans had massed against us, that the enemy would secure more than isolated local successes. Consequently, as it was expected that the 5th and 3rd Armies would not be forced back for any considerable distance, and that the struggle would retain the characteristics of a war of position, no arrangements were made for employing cavalry with their horses. The 5th cavalry brigade, now temporarily under the command of Lt.-Col. W. F. Collins, owing to Brig.-Gen. Campbell being at home in England sick, was retained at Quesmy with its dismounted battalion ready to move at the shortest possible notice, and officer's patrols from the Regiment were sent to reconnoitre the crossings over the St. Quentin canal

MARCH 21st

between Chauny and Terguier, and Terguier and Jussy, so that, when the German attack developed, the Greys' company could be sent without delay to reinforce the garrisons immediately adjacent to these crossings. At the same time, working parties were sent up from the Regiment each night to strengthen weak points in the defences. On the night of March 20th-21st, a strong working party under Lieuts. Lord Altamont, Lord Haddington and Chassels, had been sent up to a point on the canal two miles north of Jussy, and this party did admirable work on the morning of the 21st when the German attack was delivered, in helping the 14th division to stem the first onslaught. At 1.30 a.m. on the 21st, the 5th cavalry brigade was ordered to send up every available man to the assistance of the 14th division, and Captain Readman was put in command of the Greys' dismounted company with orders to join up with the working party already at Jussy. The 5th dismounted battalion was to be taken up in buses, but for a very long time, no buses appeared. However, at last, enough arrived to take up all except a platoon of the 20th Hussars and a platoon of the Greys, under Lieut. Holland Hibbert. When Captain Readman arrived at Jussy, the Greys' working party together with the working parties from the rest of the brigade, under command of Major Little, 20th Hussars, had already moved up through Jussy to a position on the line Montescourt-Lizerolles. About 7 p.m. Captain Readman, who had the Hotchkiss rifles with him, joined up with the Greys' working party. He ordered it to extend the line to the left, which entailed the digging of fresh trenches. A patrol was sent out to Hinacourt under Lieut. Chassels, which discovered that that place was already in the hands of the Germans.

MARCH 22nd and 23rd

At 3 a.m. on the 22nd the order was given to fall back across the canal, but unfortunately the message failed to reach Sergeant McHardy who was holding a strong point on the right with "C" squadron platoon, and he was left behind. At dawn the Germans attacked him, but he repulsed all their attacks until finally, finding that he was unsupported on either flank, he successfully withdrew his party to Jussy, bringing all his wounded with him. Sergeant McHardy had himself been wounded during the night, but remained at duty. For his conduct on this occasion he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. At mid-day the Greys' company took up a position on the high ground to the north of Faillouel and remained there till dusk when they moved northwards towards Jussy, and occupied a sunken road to the south of the railway, sending out patrols. It was while in charge of one of these that Lord Haddington was wounded. So far they had successfully prevented the enemy from crossing the canal at Jussy. At daybreak on the 23rd the Greys' company moved forward to a position east of the railway where, shortly afterwards, they repulsed an advanced party of the enemy who had crossed the canal. Some time during this action Captain Readman was wounded, and the command devolved on the Earl of Altamont. This advanced party of Germans had come on blowing trumpets and shouting in the evident expectation of meeting with very little resistance, but the Greys soon brought them to their senses on this occasion. However, by 11.30 a.m. the enemy were advancing in very great numbers and were beginning to work round both flanks. The 5th dismounted battalion was now covering the retirement of the 143rd infantry brigade, and was in a very awkward

situation when it is remembered that, owing to their horses not being near them, they had no greater mobility than any other dismounted unit. Probably it was sheer force of habit, and the fact that their leaders were experienced in the science of rear-guard actions, that caused the cavalry to be almost always the last to leave a position. The steadiness of the men was beyond all praise. Time after time they were left with both flanks unsupported and subjected to machine gun fire both from front and rear, and yet they invariably succeeded in extricating themselves without serious loss, and in most cases, brought their wounded back with them. Of course, it must be remembered that the cavalry, even at this stage of the war, had a good many old soldiers in their ranks, who had been properly trained in the art of open warfare, and some of whom had even fought in South Africa. Also, no doubt, they reaped the reward of the unremitting care and attention that had been devoted to their training during the past three years whenever they were withdrawn from the line. Nevertheless, it was largely due to the work that they did during these critical days (and their performance was sufficiently remarkable) and the fact that the Germans had practically no cavalry with which to press home their advantage, that Von Hutier's success was not even more complete.

By some curious confusion of thought the dismounted battalions, each of which was formed from the dismounted men of a cavalry brigade, came to be called dismounted brigades during these operations, and certainly in many cases, they seem to have been used and handled as if they actually were what their name represented them to be.

To come back to the action of March 23rd, the 5th dismounted brigade, to give it its official name, held on to its position in spite of broken men from other units retreating through its ranks, until the order was given to retire. It then withdrew in perfect order, and avoiding the roads which were blocked with fugitives, and keeping to the high ground from which it could retain the command of the situation, finally reached the position to the north of Faillouel which had been held by it on the preceding day. Here the men's fire was masked by our own retiring troops, but the "brigade" still steadily held on amid the general confusion, waiting for orders as to its next course of action.

In the end it had the satisfaction of handing over its position, close to Ugny, to the French troops that had been sent up from south of the Oise to restore the situation.

The events of this day had made it fairly obvious that the Germans were going to meet with a considerable measure of success, even if they did not obtain a complete break-through. Now, owing to the mistaken policy that had been pursued, the cavalry horses, instead of being an asset, were a positive encumbrance to the Regiment, and 100 men from a labour battalion had to be attached to the Greys before it was possible for the remnant of men that had been left at Quesmy to move their horses back from that place. This addition of men also made it possible to form a small skeleton cavalry force out of the few men who could be spared from the work of leading the horses, and each regiment in the 5th cavalry brigade supplied a troop of about 32 men to form a composite squadron under Captain Bonham of the Greys, with Lieut. Forster in

command of the Greys' troop. Captain Elliot, R.A.M.C., was attached to this force primarily in a medical capacity, but he also performed the duties of adjutant. The "regiment" which now consisted of about 1 man to 6 horses, under the command of Major Duguid McCombie, with Lieut. Cooper as adjutant and Lieut. Stirling Stuart as signal officer, these being the only officers with it, marched along roads that were much blocked by a stream of refugees, through Noyon to Pontoise, where it bivouaced.

We now return to Lieut. Holland Hibbert who, with his party, rejoined the dismounted battalion on the evening of this day. His movements are given in some detail, because they are not only interesting in themselves, but convey a very striking picture of the confusion that attended the break-through of the Germans. It will be noticed that, in the short space of twelve hours, he came under the command of no less than three generals. Lieut. Holland Hibbert waited patiently for his bus all through the daylight hours of the 21st, and when darkness came, put his men in some sheds by the side of the road with a sentry to stop the bus if it came while he slept, and waited philosophically for dawn. The 22nd saw him again waiting on the roadside with his party, and all the while that he waited, day and night, there was a continuous stream of traffic flowing by in both directions. For such had become the complexity of war in 1918 that unusual activity in the front line, even when events were moving with unprecedented rapidity, had for many hours no other visible effect on the back areas than an unusual increase in the volume of the traffic on the roads. At last, in the afternoon of the 22nd, when nearly all the streams of traffic was set steadily in the direction

of the rear, his motor bus arrived. A less resolute officer would, possibly, have accepted the omen, and gone back for fresh orders. Not so Lieut. Holland Hibbert, and by 6.30 p.m. he was at Faillouel, hot on the tracks of the "brigade" which at that time had just moved to the railway line near Jussy. Here he met General P. Bell-Smythe, commanding the 3rd cavalry brigade, who told him that it was impossible to get to Captain Readman, and sent him with a guide to report to Colonel Percival. The road was covered with recent shell-holes, and the guide, apparently, was more intent on avoiding shell-holes than on getting to his destination, so Lieut. Hibbert left him and made his own way to Colonel Percival, who ordered him to occupy and improve some trenches. After the usual difficulty in finding some one to guide him, he got there about daylight, but had only dug down about four inches, when General Sadleir-Jackson arrived, and showing him a map with a small red trench marked on it, said "The Germans are in that trench, go and get them out of it. I will get you a guide." Accordingly Lieut. Hibbert extended his men and started off with his guide. After going about 200 yards, a lot of heads popped out of a trench, and machine gun fire was opened on them. The Greys started to attack, but the guide—an infantry officer—thinking it was the trench held by the British, went forward to reconnoitre with the result that both he and his orderly were wounded. The fog now came down and Lieut. Hibbert sent back some men to his original trench to fetch the Hotchkiss rifles which had been left there to cover his advance. This party found that that trench was now also full of Germans, and, after losing about half their number, returned with the Hotchkiss rifles and boxes of ammunition under the senior unwounded N.C.O. who

had carried Sergeant Currie out on his back. The fog having now lifted, the infantry officer guide, who already had been twice wounded, insisted on going on again to find out what was happening. This time he came back saying "we'd better get out of this," and Lieut. Hibbert, thinking what was too hot for this officer was probably too hot for anything less well protected than an armoured car, concurred and fell back again to the railway, where he met General Sadleir-Jackson who ordered him to hold the railway embankment. He was starting to dig in there as the enemy had brought up some trench mortars when General Sadleir-Jackson ordered him to conform to the movements of the infantry who were now retiring, and to cover their retirement. This he did, but the infantry officers, marching behind their men, were unable to stop them when they wanted to, and the infantry were through the position and into the village of Faillouel before they could be stopped. It was here that Lieut. Hibbert joined up with Lord Altamont who was in command of the remainder of the Greys' dismounted company, and who had by now lost Lieut. Chassels and what was left of "C" squadron platoon. There was great difficulty at this point in getting any definite orders, but finally a staff officer pointed to a hill and told them to hold that. On reaching this hill, they got into touch with the 3rd Hussars (4th cavalry brigade) on their right and formed a line, but shortly afterwards seeing masses of Germans working round their left quite out of range, they warned the 3rd Hussars that they were going to fall back in five minutes to a position on the edge of the Bois de Genlis to the south-west of Faillouel. Here at last they got definite orders that all cavalry were to concentrate in the next village—Villequier-Aumont—to the rear of Faillouel, and so fell back under

heavy shell-fire through the wood and over the Helot to a position a mile to the east of Ugný. There were some trenches here and the Greys proceeded to occupy them just as it was getting dark. Brig.-Gen. A. Seymour, 8th cavalry brigade, now came up and said that the trench was to be held until the French, who had been sent up to restore the situation, were in position. As soon as the French arrived, the Greys' company fell back into the village of Ugný where they were joined by Lieut. Chassels who had got separated from the Greys' company at Faillouel and had worked his way round to Ugný. Just at this moment, some mounted men, who turned out to be the composite squadron from the 5th brigade under Captain Bonham, rode through the village. This squadron remained in support of the French, covering their retirement.

MARCH 24th

On the morning of the 24th, Captain Lord Leven and Lieut. Sir A. Baillie were sent out from Bailly with 27 men and 90 horses, to pick up the dismounted party, as mounted men were now even more urgently required than infantry. Meanwhile the dismounted cavalry, together with what infantry it had been found possible to collect, were marched down along the ridge to the north of the river Oise, where French and British gunners were hurriedly preparing fresh position, to Caillouel. The Hotchkiss gunners were put into lorries, as the carriers, after three days of carrying the guns, were absolutely exhausted and quite incapable of continuing to march with the rest of the force. At Caillouel, General Seymour secured rations for the party, which consisted of the 3rd cavalry brigade dismounted battalion (less the 5th Lancers) and the Greys. It was organized into a dismounted battalion



under Captain Cheyne, 16th Lancers, the Greys' company remaining under Lieut. Hibbert. The remainder of the dismounted men of the 2nd cavalry division, consisting of the 5th Lancers, the 4th cavalry brigade, and the 5th cavalry brigade, less the Scots Greys, had spent the night at Neuville en Beine, north of Ugny, and instead of sticking to the valley of the Oise, fought a series of delaying actions in conjunction with the French. In the evening they were withdrawn to Beaurains, about three miles north of Noyon, where their horses had been sent to meet them. After leaving Caillouel, Captain Cheyne's battalion withdrew to Dampcourt on the river Oise, where its horses were to have met them, but here, just as further to the north, the Germans were pressing very hard on the French, so General Seeley ordered it to move up in support, the Greys' company being ordered to put Appilly into a state of defence. This was finally completed by dusk, and the Greys were just settling down to hold the positions they had prepared, when they received orders to go back and find their horses.

MARCH 25th

During the night of March 24th-25th, various mounted detachments collected from the 3rd, 4th and 5th cavalry brigades were concentrated at Beaurains under the command of Colonel Cooke, 20th Hussars. Captain Bonham's squadron also joined this force, now known as "Cooke's Detachment," bringing its strength up to about 300 all told. This force moved off at 6 a.m. on the 25th and marched to Vauchelles, 12 miles west of Noyon, where it got in touch with the cavalry detachment under General Harman, commanding the 3rd cavalry division, who was at Lagny, 5 miles to the north-west, and with the French in Noyon. It was

ascertained that the French were holding the line Bois d'Autrecourt-Crisolles-Bussy in strength and were supported on their left near Bussy by the 14th division at Beaurains and Sermaize, and also that in the opinion of the General commanding the 3rd Corps, Noyon was safe for the time being. At 2.10 p.m. Cooke's Detachment received orders to join General Harman at Lagny, from which place they moved up to support the French at Catigny, who had reported that they were hard pressed. Catigny, however, was not very strongly held, and the French withdrew from the village during the night.

We now return to the Greys' dismounted company which was left on the night of the 24th-25th looking for their horses. These they found early in the morning of the 25th at Pontoise, and here also came a further party of 90 men under Captain St. Lawrence, collected out of the men with the led-horses to form a new composite brigade, consisting of a regiment from each of the 3rd, 4th and 5th cavalry brigades. This composite brigade was placed under the command of General Pitman, commanding the 4th cavalry brigade. It will be noted that, whereas the Greys' contribution to Cooke's Detachment was rather weak, consisting only of that portion of Captain Bonham's squadron that came from the Regiment, on the other hand their squadron with this new regiment, which was under the command of Colonel Fane, 12th Lancers, was exceptionally strong as it included, not only Captain St. Lawrence's squadron, but also the men of the dismounted company who were now mounted on the horses brought up by Lord Leven. Thanks to the devotion of the men of the Greys' Hotchkiss rifle detachments which has already been touched on in this narrative, this squadron was

extremely strong in Hotchkiss rifles, whereas some of the other regiments had brought very few out of the dismounted fighting of March 23rd-24th. Consequently, in the subsequent fighting the Greys' were generally employed to form a defensive flank, owing to their being able to develop a greater volume of fire than any other squadron. By 7 p.m. this composite brigade had been organized and concentrated at Pontoise, whence it marched, keeping on the left bank of the Oise as the position at Noyon was not quite clear, to Chiry, about four miles south of Noyon on the right bank of the river. From here patrols were sent to Larbroye and Noyon, which were found to be still held by the French; but their hold on these positions being by no means secure, the composite brigade took up a defensive position astride the main Noyon-Compiègne road.

MARCH 26th

Early on the 26th the French evacuated Noyon, and in conformity with this movement, Cooke's Detachment was ordered at 1 a.m. to withdraw from Catigny, and take up a position at Dives, about three miles southwest of Lagny. The Regiment, as the party with the led-horses must still be called, was placed in rather an awkward situation by the French withdrawal from Noyon. Throughout the 25th the led-horses of the brigade had remained at Bailly which was on the right bank of the river, and should it have become necessary to retire further southwards, it would have been impossible to do so on that side as the roads to Compiègne were absolutely blocked with troops and transport. To remain where they were was very risky, as there was only a suspension bridge and one lucky hit by a shell might destroy it at any minute. At last orders were received to do the only obvious thing,

which was to cross the river and retire southwards along its left bank. The bridge, however, was blocked by French troops who were double-banked on it, evacuating supplies from the right bank to the left and bringing up troops from the left to the right. Lieut.-Col. Collins, however, proved fully equal to the occasion, and by 4 a.m. the led-horses were in comparative safety on the left bank of the river. From here yet another troop was somehow squeezed out of the men with the led-horses, and Lieut. Crawford with 50 mounted men was sent off at 5.30 a.m., and succeeded in joining Col. Fane's regiment during the fighting in the Bois de la Réserve near Suzoy.

It is, perhaps, necessary here to digress for a moment in order to explain the strategy of the fighting on March 26th and the subsequent days. From La Fère which, before the German attack, marked the junction point between the French and British Armies, the Oise ran roughly east and west and the French were able to confine the German advance to the right bank of the river. At Noyon the river makes a sharp bend southwards and the object of the French, assisted by the British cavalry, was to prevent the enemy making headway along the right bank of the Oise towards Compiègne, and so enlarging the front on which they could operate in their attempt to separate the French and British Armies.

Noyon was now in flames at several places, and it was practically certain that the Germans had occupied Larbroye, but it was thought that it might still be possible to seize the high ground to the west of the village and so block his further advance. Col. Fane, therefore, with the leading regiment of General Pitman's

improvised brigade was ordered to seize this high ground, but it was found to be already occupied by the enemy. While our advanced troops were consolidating a position just short of their objective, the brigade was suddenly ordered to concentrate at Passel about three miles to the south, its position being taken over by French troops. The reason why General Pitman brought his brigade back to Passel was that there was a great danger of the Germans working round to the south and west of Noyon and seizing the wooded massif called the Bois de Thiescourt, before the French had had time to consolidate their position along its northern slopes. In order also to counter-attack this, General Harman with Cooke's Detachment, had moved forward from Dives and was now holding the line Cuy-Scaucourt, while the line was prolonged to the north-west by French troops holding Lagny. General Pitman's brigade was required to fill the gap on the right of General Harman between Cuy and Dive le Franc, and it now advanced from Passel and took up a line facing north-east from Ville to the southern edge of the Bois de la Réserve. About 10.45 a.m. the French troops withdrew from Lagny, although Cooke's Detachment sent up a squadron of the 20th Hussars, supported by a squadron of the 16th Lancers from General Pitman's force, to hold the village, and Captain Bonham's squadron still further prolonged the line by seizing the high ground north-west of Lagny.

Germans were seen in large numbers working round the wooded heights to the left, and it became obvious that the position was outflanked. As there were no reserves available, either to counter-attack or fill the gap, Cooke's Detachment, which had been holding the line between General Harman's force at Cuy and the

French at Lagny, was forced to fall back on Dives. Here they succeeded in maintaining themselves till 5 p.m. when they were again outflanked and fell back on Thiescourt. This retirement was carried out under very heavy shell-fire which was mainly directed on the exits from Dives, and the detachment suffered very severe casualties, including their leader, Colonel Cooke, who was killed. General Harman's left flank was now entirely in the air, and he was compelled, in his turn, to fall back thus making the situation very difficult for General Pitman. The Germans, foiled in their attempt to debouch southwards from Larbroye, pushed westwards and finally, after suffering pretty severe casualties, succeeded in capturing the village of Suzoy. From here they made persistent efforts to work round between Cuy and the Bois de la Réserve, but were constantly held up by the Greys who were on the extreme left of the line, and whose Hotchkiss rifles made very useful practice. Finally, when General Harman fell back from Cuy, the Greys formed a defensive flank, and under cover of this, the brigade fell back on Chiry which was reached at 11 p.m. The confusion caused through working with composite units rather hastily formed, was well demonstrated here. The Greys were holding a corner of the Bois de la Réserve with their left flank, not only in the air, but also blind owing to the thickness of the wood. Lieut. Crawford's troop now arrived and was used to guard this flank. The enemy, however, succeeded in getting round both flanks, and the Regiment had to evacuate the position rather quickly. The thickness of the undergrowth and the fact that the wood is on a very steep hill caused considerable confusion during this withdrawal, and, on reaching the next ridge, it was found more satisfactory to re-organize into three squadrons, *i.e.*, units which all the men knew,



than to remain as one composite squadron. Thus, during a fight at close quarters with the enemy, four composite troops and a composite reinforcement became three squadrons. General Harman, together with "Cooke's Detachment," had already fallen back from Theiscourt to Elincourt.

The French were now in position on the line Chiry-Loermont-Gury and the cavalry were only required to remain in support as strong reinforcements were rapidly coming up.

MARCH 27th

By the morning of the 27th, the French had come up in force and the situation was definitely in hand, the Germans being stopped on the line Noyon-Montdidier. The cavalry were now withdrawn to the Compiègne area, and at Canly, six miles west of that place, the 5th brigade were re-united with their led-horses which had crossed the Oise at Compiègne earlier in the day. All the mounted detachments had now rejoined headquarters, and there was a general sorting out of men and horses, many being in their wrong squadrons.

MARCH 28th

On the morning of the 28th, for the first time since the commencement of the German offensive, the brigade was properly organized into its component parts of three cavalry regiments, and, the led-horses and "B" Echelon being left at Canly, it marched at 7 a.m. to Noroy where it was ordered to take up a position as it was rumoured that the enemy had broken through south-east of Montdidier. The French, however, had already stopped them, and the brigade then pushed on rapidly to Chepoix, where the Germans were reported

to be breaking through. Here again its services were not required, so it went into billets at La Herelle. In case of eventualities, the dismounted battalion was warned to be ready to move, and an outpost line was thrown out.

MARCH 29th

On the 29th most disquieting news arrived from Amiens, and the brigade was hurried up to Cagny on the outskirts of the town.

MARCH 30th

On the morning of the 30th, the brigade stood-to at 5.30 a.m. in the pouring rain, and was moved up across the railway to the Bois de Blagny in support of the infantry who were attacking Hangard Wood. It accordingly left its horses in the Bois de Blagny and advancing to Gentilles, it dug itself in in front of the village. The infantry drove the enemy back as far as the crest south-east of Cachy, but were, in their turn, driven back by machine gun fire. However, they re-formed on the cavalry, and finally succeeded in again occupying the ridge. Meanwhile the Australian division had passed on the left on its way to Villers-Bretonneux where it was successful in driving back the Germans. The Regiment was withdrawn from Blagny Wood at 11 p.m.

MARCH 31st

At 3 a.m. on the 31st orders were received to saddle-up, and the Regiment joined the brigade at the Bois L'Abbé. Here a dismounted battalion was formed under the command of Major Duguid-McCombie, the Greys' company being under the command of Captain St. Lawrence.

APRIL 1st

At 9.30 p.m. orders came from the 19th Corps for the 2nd cavalry division to seize the high ground to the north-west of Moreuil Wood, and the small wood about half a mile south-east of Hourges. (This wood was sometimes known as Rifle Wood and sometimes as Hourges Wood.) Artillery preparation was promised for 5.30 a.m. on April 1st, but this hour was subsequently altered to 9 a.m. at the request of the divisional commander, so that those who were to lead the attack should have a chance of reconnoitring the ground by daylight. The 5th cavalry brigade moved off from Bois L'Abbé at 2 a.m. on April 1st, and concentrating at a point on the Amiens-Roye road where all horses were sent back, the dismounted battalion marched through Domart to Hourges. The attack was made in three successive waves—the first wave consisting of the 4th dismounted battalion less the Carabiniers, the second of the 5th dismounted battalion less the Scots Greys and 12th Lancers, and the third of the Canadian dismounted battalion. The Carabiniers, the Greys and the 12th Lancers were kept in hand as a reserve. All three waves reached their objectives, the Scots Greys being employed to prolong the right of the Canadians who had passed through the second wave (20th Hussars and one platoon 12th Lancers) and had seized the high ground to the north of Moreuil Wood. Although the Greys, being on the extreme right of the line, did not have such serious fighting as some of the other troops, their casualties were severe* as they had to move in the open exposed to very heavy machine gun and rifle fire; nevertheless they successfully attained their objective, consolidated it, and held it

* Lieuts. Laidlaw and Warral wounded; 7 other ranks killed and 50 wounded.



until relieved about midnight. Sergeant Aitchison received a bar to his M.M. for his conduct on this occasion, but, perhaps, the most conspicuous bravery was shown by the Regimental stretcher bearers—Privates Dent and Handley. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. they continued to carry wounded men across ground which was swept by machine gun and rifle fire. They did this double journey of 800 yards, which included a village street under heavy shell fire, no less than six times during the day and once after dark. Through their efforts every wounded man in this sector was brought in. Private Dent was made a Corporal for his action on this occasion, and both men were recommended for the Victoria Cross.

APRIL 2nd-5th

On the evening of April 2nd, the brigade was withdrawn to Camon, close to Amiens, nearly every man in the Greys having to lead one spare horse. Officers and patrols were at once sent out thoroughly to reconnoitre the southern exits from Amiens towards Dury and Boves, in case of a break-through south of Moreuil. Amiens was not a very pleasant town to be in just at this period, as it was constantly subject to shell-fire and the enemy's bombing planes were very active. The German aeroplanes, however, were by no means having it all their own way, as the Allied Air Forces were rapidly re-establishing their supremacy in the air. Still nothing much could be done to prevent the bombing at night, which was unfortunate for the cavalry who were kept in this rather unhealthy spot for the next three days being ready to move at short notice.

APRIL 6th-9th

By April 5th the German attack had been definitely stopped, and on the 6th the brigade was moved back



to more comfortable quarters at Bussus-Bussuel, close to Abbeville, where the Greys were rapidly brought up to strength, receiving in four days no fewer than 300 men—most of them rather hurriedly trained Yeomanry recruits from the reserve cavalry regiments. Two new officers also joined, Lieuts. Cloete and Mace.

On April 8th Lieut.-Col. W. F. Collins resumed command of the Regiment, Brig.-Gen. Neil Haig having been appointed to the command of the brigade.

APRIL 10th-15th

The enemy had now turned their attention further north in the hope that the line there had been so weakened by the reinforcements sent to the Amiens front that a break-through might be possible. Accordingly on April 9th they attacked the Portuguese in front of Estaires, and, breaking through, forced the troops on each side of our Allies to fall back. At one time the situations looked so serious that, on April 10th, the 5th cavalry brigade were ordered to march north as rapidly as possible. On this occasion the Greys left behind their "B" Echelon and a dismounted party of 125 other ranks under Lieut. Baring. Early on the morning of the 14th the brigade was at the Bois des huit Rues, and remained there all day standing-to in the bitter cold on the wind-swept slopes that look out over Hazebrouck. The Regiment were then placed in support to an Australian infantry brigade, and remained with it for a further 24 hours, but they were not required to take any action. On the 15th the Greys were relieved by the 16th Lancers (3rd cavalry brigade), and went back to billets near La Belle Hôtesse where they remained for the rest of the month.

APRIL 16th-30th

At La Belle Hôtesse they were rejoined by Lieut. Baring with his dismounted party and " B " Echelon, and received a huge mail, rather reminiscent of Christmas, as all their letters and parcels had been accumulating ever since the Regiment left Bussus. It was while the Regiment was here that Lt.-Col. W. F. Collins relinquished the command, being succeeded by Major Duguid-McCombie. Lt.-Col. Collins was appointed to the command of the 5th reserve regiment of cavalry in England and soon afterwards received the D.S.O. for his services in the war. He had commanded the Greys continuously from December, 1914 to April, 1918. While in command of the reserve regiment he attended, in company with some other brother officers, the memorial service to the Czar. This last tribute on the part of the Regiment to the memory of their ill-fated Colonel-in-Chief, who had always taken the deepest interest in the Greys and was particularly proud of his connection with it, elicited the following letter to Lt.-Col. Collins from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, which is inserted here to mark the close of a chapter in the history of the Regiment, although it was not till July that these pathetic words were received.

Sir,

May I be permitted to express to you on behalf of all Russians who attended the memorial service for the late Emperor and also on behalf of the officers of the Russian Army, heartfelt thanks for the tribute you have paid to the memory of the Emperor by your presence and that of your brother officers at the Russian Church on Thursday.



The officers of the Russian Army have the fervent hope that they will be given, with the aid of our Allies, the opportunity of upholding their glorious traditions and will contribute to the defeat of the enemies of civilization.

In these days of dark calamity, which Russia is sure to survive, a tribute to the late Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army, who had the honour to wear your uniform, is particularly precious.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

C. NABAKOFF,

Russian Chargé d'Affaires.

MAY-JULY

At the beginning of May a general spirit of optimism began to show itself in the British Army. It was felt that the Germans had done their worst and failed, and now that the American troops were coming over with regularity and in large numbers, the pendulum was swinging more and more in our favour. At the same time the naval situation was very greatly improved, and the submarine menace was well in hand, the blocking of Zeebrugge on April 23rd having still further curtailed Germany's opportunities of damaging our commerce and transport.

For the greater part of the next three months the Greys were at Brimeux, close to Montreuil. In fact the Regiment was only once moved from their very pleasant quarters, and that was on July 16th when there was a

scare of a German offensive in the Arras sector. The offensive failed to materialize however, and after remaining at Lignereuil for a week, the Greys moved back to Brimeux. There was plenty to be done during the three months that the Regiment was at Brimeux. To begin with there were the three hundred recruits to be knocked into shape and trained up to pre-war standard for mounted work. In addition they had to be trained in all the things that a man in a dismounted battalion had got to do, while a certain number had to become specialists in such things as the Hotchkiss rifle and signalling. Then there were the horses to be considered. In April, 1917, the Regiment had lost nearly a third of its horses, and many of those that were sent to replace them were of very poor quality. During March and April, 1918, the horses had again suffered great hardships, and a lot of them, not being of the right stamp, had fallen away to mere skin and bone. In addition to the necessity for working the horses at squadron and regimental training, there was the problem of how to build them up so as to be ready for future eventualities. That the 5th cavalry brigade in general, and the Greys in particular, were successful in dealing with this matter is shown by the reports of a horse inspection held by the divisional commander in June. From these we learn that in the three brigades, the 3rd had 831, the 4th 611, and the 5th 356 horses that required building up. Of this number the Greys only owned 70, being the only regiment with less than 100 such horses in the ranks. By July 13th this number had been reduced to 41, and the Regiment was easily the best mounted regiment in the division. At the marching order inspections held by the generals commanding the division and the brigade, the Regiment received very favourable reports, and when in August

they were moved up to take part in the great offensive from Amiens, there is but little doubt that they were as efficient as it was possible to make them. Major General Pitman, D.S.O., now was in command of the 2nd cavalry division, as General Greenly had relinquished the command of the division in April.

When General Greenly left the division, he sent the following letter to Lt.-Col. Collins, who at that time was in temporary command of the 5th brigade :—

“ I want to write you just a few lines. First to thank you and all the dear old 5th brigade for all the splendid work in every way you have all continuously and consistently put in ever since I had the extreme pleasure and honour of knowing you. I simply love your brigade and have never seen anything to equal it. You have all and always played up and responded over and above measure in a way that has always been to me just wonderful—and I have appreciated it. As to the dear old Greys I really cannot express my feelings at all, but do tell everyone of your boys that I wish them everything that is best and thank them all more than I can say. You are the best of the best (the Greys) and that is all about it. All luck and great continued success to all of you and God bless you.”

CHAPTER VIII.

**1st August
1918
to
22nd March
1919**

**THE BATTLE OF AMIENS
THE CROSSING OF THE
HINDENBURG LINE
THE PURSUIT TO MONS
THE ENTRY INTO GERMANY
AND
THE RETURN OF THE REGIMENT
TO ENGLAND**

CHAPTER VIII.

The Final Offensive, the entry into Germany, and the return of the Regiment to England.

AUGUST 1st-7th

The time had at last come for the Allies to take the offensive, and early in August the British cavalry were concentrated round Amiens. The 5th cavalry brigade left Brimeux on August 4th and arrived at Glisy, on the Somme about three miles east of Amiens, in the early hours of the 8th. In order to prevent the Germans knowing what was going forward, this concentration was carried out entirely by night. The conditions were not quite so bad as they had been in October, 1914. The weather was better and during the day the horses could often be concealed in orchards and copses close to villages, so that quarters were not so cramped. The men themselves had become more used to moving at night but, nevertheless, by the end of the march they were very tired. On one occasion the barber of "B" squadron amused an officer very much by telling him, while cutting his hair, that he had not had a wink of sleep the night before as his horse kept stumbling all the time; but this man happened to be a better barber than a soldier, and the ordinary trooper never went so far as to regard his horse as a substitute for a bed.

AUGUST 8th

The brigade passed through Amiens on its way to Glisy just before dawn on the 8th. It was a weird and impressive sight as the town was absolutely deserted and the railway station a mere heap of ruins. After off-saddling for two hours at Glisy, the Greys moved to Cagny and later to Ignaucourt. On the way they crossed the German front line trenches which had been carried by the Australians and the 1st cavalry division that morning, and everywhere there were numbers of wounded Germans waiting for medical attention, and German field guns which had been captured and turned against the enemy by the Australian gunners. The tanks also had a wonderful success as was evidenced by the number of enemy dead which were lying along their tracks. Everywhere the corn was standing, almost breast high, and in among it lay the dead, many of whom had been there since last March. The British attack had come as a complete surprise, and the 1st cavalry division had broken through the German positions to a distance of eight miles, rumour having it that the 1st brigade had captured a leave train. German rations were lying about all over the place, but they were not of a nature to tempt our men, consisting chiefly of dried potatoes and oatmeal bread. The Greys watered their horses at Ignaucourt, the first opportunity they had had since the previous day, and then went into bivouac much elated at the success which had evidently attended the initial stages of the attack, and confident that their turn would come on the morrow.

AUGUST 9th

On August 9th the brigade, advancing in close liaison with the Canadian infantry who were to attack Quesnel just north of the Amiens-Roye road, were ordered to

make full use of any opportunity to break through that might occur. The previous day's attack on the right, however, had not been such a complete success as that on the left, and, after the first surprise, the German resistance had stiffened considerably. The orders for the Greys were to form the right half of the advanced guard with their right on the Amiens-Roye road where they were in touch with the left of the First French Army, and their left in touch with the 20th Hussars. They advanced on a front of two squadrons ("A" and "B") with a half section of the 5th machine gun squadron, the whole under Captain E. J. Hardy, with "C" squadron under Captain H. N. Scott-Robson in reserve. The French on the right were getting on well and vigorously pushing the enemy back, but a patrol sent forward under Lieut. Oliver to make liaison with the Canadians, reported that the latter were held up just to the east of Quesnel and could not get on. However, by pushing forward with his two squadrons and machine gun section through a wood on the German left, Captain Hardy succeeded in easing the situation for the Canadians, only to find himself, in his turn, held up by artillery and machine gun fire on emerging from the eastern corner of the wood. Regimental headquarters and "C" squadron now came up and formed a defensive flank on the right as the enemy were threatening to attack along the Amiens-Roye road and were shelling the Regiment from Arvillers. The colonel's horse was shot under him while reconnoitring the situation. At 3.10 p.m. three whippet tanks were sent up to report to Captain Hardy, and with their aid he pushed across the railway and then, in close touch with the French on his right, continued his advance along the Amiens-Roye road as far as the crossroads one mile west of Bouchoir, thus causing the enemy to

evacuate Arvillers, the German artillery coming under heavy machine gun fire while doing so. Patrols now reported that the 20th Hussars were held up north-east of Folies, and that the Canadian infantry were consolidating immediately east of Bouchoir with their right resting on the Amiens-Roye road. A considerable gap now existed between the Canadians and the French who were by this time in the vicinity of Erches, to the south of the Amiens-Roye road, and "A" squadron and one troop of "B" were moved up to fill it, occupying a trench to the south-east of Bouchoir on the south side of the main road. Here they engaged the enemy's machine guns with Hotchkiss and rifle fire and so covered the French advance. At dark the Greys were relieved by Canadian mounted rifles, but Captain Hardy, in view of the fact that no troops were sent to fill the gap between the Canadians and the French, remained in his position until 12.30 a.m. on the 10th when, it being reported to him that the Canadians were fully informed as to the situation, he withdrew.

The day was very hot and the horses suffered severely as "A" squadron were never able to water until they got to Beaufort, and "B" and "C" squadrons did not get an opportunity till late in the afternoon. The Greys total casualties for the day were six other ranks wounded, seven horses killed and some wounded, six of which had to be destroyed.

AUGUST 10th-15th

On the 10th the 5th cavalry brigade were in reserve, and on the 11th all chance of a break through having obviously disappeared, the 2nd cavalry division was withdrawn to Ignaucourt where it remained till the 15th.

AUGUST 16th-31st

The Allied advance had by now reached the area of the old Somme battlefield where the ground was so utterly unsuitable for the employment of cavalry that the whole cavalry corps was withdrawn to billets along the river Authie. The Greys, however, did not remain here long, being soon moved into the Arras district where they were employed mainly as divisional cavalry for the rest of the month. During this period the Regiment was very much split up, and squadrons had constantly to detach troops for reconnoitring patrols and for establishing liaison between various units, as well as providing numerous orderlies and despatch riders. Captain E. J. Hardy with " B " squadron, for instance, was detached from the Regiment from August 21st to September 3rd, coming under the orders of the 4th Corps, and being attached to different divisions and brigades, according as the tactical situation called for the employment of mounted troops. In this manner the advance of the infantry was much facilitated, a squadron or troop of cavalry often being able to clear up the situation very quickly and almost without casualties in a manner that would have been quite impossible for the slower moving infantry. Nor could the Germans retaliate by masking their movements behind a cavalry screen as, owing to the shortage of horses and cereals, they had been obliged to dismount their cavalry on the western front. Indeed, in view of the great services rendered by our mounted troops in the last four months of the war, it seems an open question whether, with a numerous and boldly handled cavalry, the Germans might not have succeeded in their offensive at the end of March in driving a wedge between the French and British Armies.

Although this work of exploiting the successes gained by the infantry prevented the men and horses of the squadron from getting much rest—each new division to which they were attached regarding them as entirely fresh troops and employing them as such—yet on the whole they did not suffer as they were able to do themselves extremely well in the way of forage and other creature comforts. In fact isolated troops sometimes did themselves almost too well, if there is any truth in the story told by the commander of a division to which a troop of the Greys was attached. One day he met a man with a truss of hay on his back and a gilt mirror slung round his neck. Soon afterwards the same man again passed him with a sack of oats and an arm-chair. Yet again he came by, this time with a table and a large tin bucket, so the general stopped him and asked him who he was, receiving the reply, "Officer's servant, sir."

A typical instance of the value of even a troop of cavalry attached to an infantry division is given in the regimental war diary of August 28th. The 42nd division to which Lieut. A. R. Cooper's troop was attached, had momentarily lost touch with the enemy. The troop was sent forward to re-establish contact which it succeeded in doing and sent back most valuable information, although exposed to constant rifle and machine gun fire. Lce.-Cpl. Seaton was recommended for the D.C.M. on account of his skilful leadership on this occasion, and Pte. McConnachie received the Military Medal for his conduct as pointer of this patrol. This trooper exposed himself time after time with the utmost coolness and daring, drawing the enemy's fire and enabling the officer to locate the machine guns.



Sometimes, however, infantry commanders had rather exaggerated ideas of what a troop of cavalry could do. Thus, on one occasion, a troop was attached to a division and was ordered to do advanced guard to three columns of infantry on three parallel roads. At the time the brigades in question were still scattered all over the country and had been fighting continuously for several days. In addition the point of assembly, from which the march of the columns was to start, had not yet been captured. The officer in command of the troop saddled up and duly reported to the brigadiers concerned, but was not very surprised to learn that none of them wanted him.

On the 23rd the remaining squadrons of the Regiment were moved up to Moyenneville to exploit a success which General Byng had gained on a nine mile front between Moyenneville and Beaucourt sur Ancre, and afterwards were used to guard the flank when it was found that a further advance was not feasible at the moment. Both these squadrons sent out many patrols as well as troops to act independently of squadrons, and Lieuts. Oliver, Lord Rodney and Lord Haddington all did work that received special mention.

SEPTEMBER 1st-25th

By the first week of September the Regiment was once more re-united and, on September 6th, the 5th cavalry brigade, now attached to the Fourth Army, was concentrated at Albert, ready to move up to support an attack by the Australian Corps. This attack, however, was not made and the Regiment was withdrawn to Pont Noyelles, to the north-east of Amiens, and remained there until September 26th. While there the brigade seized the opportunity to improve its training

in the light of lessons learned under recent conditions, and special attention was paid to open warfare in liaison with infantry, and advanced guard work in general.

SEPTEMBER 26th-30th

On September 26th the brigade was moved up to take part in the attack on the Hindenburg line and, marching by night through Morcourt and Le Mesnil Bruntel, concentrated on the morning of the 29th in the valley between Templeux le Guerard and Hargicourt, ground that was very familiar to the Regiment from its spells in the trenches during the summer of 1917. The morning was foggy, but nevertheless the attack on the right where the 46th division stormed the canal at Bellenglise, and captured over 4,000 prisoners, was brilliantly successful. The Americans on the left, however, although they reported that all was clear, had been held up in their attack on Bony, while other troops had lost their direction in the fog, so that when the Australians, supported by the 5th cavalry brigade advanced, they had to attack the original positions themselves instead of leap-frogging through the Americans to the second objective, and this so delayed matters that all chance of using the cavalry was gone.

OCTOBER 1st-15th

Accordingly after dark the brigade was withdrawn to Roisel and the Greys were attached to the 9th Corps during the next fortnight, being in close support each day and furnishing numerous mounted patrols for liaison and reconnaissance. On the 3rd October "B" squadron were to have been sent forward to destroy the railway about five miles to the east of Magny la Fosse, but the Germans, employing a large quantity of gas shells, so impeded the infantry attack that the

Regiment was ordered to form a dismounted party of 10 men per troop, which dug itself in at Preselles.

At dawn on the 4th the Hotchkiss gunners found themselves enfilading a line of enemy light machine guns only partially dug in and well within range. The gunners made full use of this opportunity before being relieved by the infantry. On the 8th the brigade was to form a defensive flank about Bohain while two infantry divisions operated further to the north. "C" squadron which was advanced guard, got on far ahead of the infantry, but in spite of a report from Lieut. Forster in command of the advanced troop, to the effect that no serious opposition had been met with, the infantry failed to advance and this squadron was finally ordered back to take up a position on the right flank of the infantry. The squadron lost nine men and twenty horses, and Captain Elliot, R.A.M.C., was wounded. Later in the day "A" squadron was sent to co-operate with the 20th Hussars in an attempt to seize the railway south of Brancourt-le-Grand, but the advance that had been made by the Americans was not sufficiently important for any such operation to be feasible.

On October 12th the brigade was split up, the 12th Lancers becoming corps cavalry to the 13th Corps, and the 20th Hussars going to the American Corps, the Greys still remaining with the 9th Corps, though "B" and "C" squadrons were temporarily detached, "B" going to the 6th division, and "C" to the 40th division. The command of "B" squadron was now taken over by Major Ian Finlay, North Irish Horse, who was in the Regiment during the South African war.

OCTOBER 16th

On the 16th the whole Regiment, now re-united with the exception of one troop of "C" squadron still

OCTOBER 17th

attached to the 40th division, was attached to the 1st division to support the attack from Vaux-Andigny. The attack was successful, the Regiment greatly assisting with information provided by patrols, though no opportunity occurred for its employment as a unit. Major Finlay, and Lieuts. Forster and Mace were wounded, and two other ranks were killed and seven wounded. On the following day "B" squadron was sent forward to seize the high ground east of Wassigny, but patrols reconnoitring the advance, came under heavy machine gun fire and the attack had to be abandoned.

OCTOBER 18th

On October 18th the Greys' patrols reconnoitred the crossings over the Sambre canal, but discovered that they were all destroyed. They came under heavy shell fire while carrying out the reconnaissance, losing two men and three horses. On this day "B" squadron was attached to the 1st infantry brigade, and the other two squadrons to the 3rd infantry brigade.

OCTOBER 19th-31st

For some time the Regiment had been suffering very severely from influenza, which had been the scourge of the Army for the last two months. Consequently on the 20th it went into billets at Becquigny, and was not again employed till the 30th, when it moved through Vaudemont to Mons-en-Chausée. The influenza, however, still continued, there being twenty-three fresh cases on October 31st, and on the 1st November, the Greys could only supply one strong composite squadron to be attached to the 1st division. The troop, under Lieut. Petherick that had not rejoined on October 16th, had, however, escaped the influenza epidemic,

NOVEMBER 1st-3rd

and remained attached to the 46th division. The composite squadron, 178 strong, went into billets at Vadencourt, and on the 2nd marched to Vaux-Andigny where it came under the orders of the 1st division.

NOVEMBER 4th

The squadron was at once divided up amongst the three brigades, Lord Altamont with his troop being sent at 1.30 a.m. on November 4th to the 2nd brigade at La Louvières, and Lieut. Oliver to the 1st brigade at the same place at 5.30 a.m. The day was very foggy and Lord Altamont, pushing forward on the line Viéville-La Justice, had a patrol heavily fired on from Viéville, but bringing his Hotchkiss into action enabled it to retire without loss. Lieut. Oliver's troop maintained liaison between the 1st brigade and portions of the 32nd division which were operating to the north of it. The remainder of the squadron was not employed. In the evening the squadron came under the orders of the 46th division, where Lieut. Petherick's troop joined it, thus making a 5th troop and bringing the strength of Captain St. Lawrence's command up to 206.

NOVEMBER 5th

On the 5th the Greys, in conjunction with a squadron of the 20th Hussars, received orders to cross the Sambre canal, pass through the infantry outposts at dawn, and seize the high ground north-east of the line Prisches-Beaurepaire. The left patrol of the Greys under Lieut. McCorquodale, and the 20th Hussars further to the north, successfully gained their first objectives, capturing many prisoners and guns, but the right patrol under Lord Altamont was held up at le Sart by machine gun fire. This position was turned from the north by the remainder of the Greys and the 20th Hussars, but

neither regiment were able to reach their final objectives. A patrol under Lieut. McCorquodale did indeed get as far as Prisches, but here it was held up at the eastern exits of the village. The cavalry then held a line along the Prisches-Marailles road and remained there until relieved by the infantry at dusk, when the Greys went into billets at Mezières.

NOVEMBER 6th

The next day the Greys, less Lord Altamont's troop, which was in reserve to the 46th division at Mezières, again went through the infantry line at dawn, this time covering the advance of the 137th brigade. The objective on this occasion was the high ground south of Cartignies, several miles to the east of Prisches. One patrol made for Malgarni which was found to be occupied by French troops, and so was enabled to push on at once meeting with no opposition till it reached Beaurepaire. Here some enemy were encountered, but these, being quickly driven out of the village, retired southwards, leaving one prisoner in our hands. On emerging from the eastern side of the village, Lieut. McCorquodale came under fire. Dismounting his men, he forced the Germans to retire, and made good all ground to his front as far as La Hayette. In this encounter he captured another prisoner, ultimately rejoining the squadron at Beaurepaire. During the course of this action, Lieut. McCorquodale, in order to bring more rifles to bear, handed his horse over to a civilian who was standing near. To his astonishment, as soon as the enemy began to retire, this civilian brought up the led-horses at a trot in the most approved cavalry style.

One of the strangest features of the fighting at this period of the war, was the large number of civilians

that turned up directly there was any firing. Their object was horse-flesh and they did not seem to mind whether they were hit or not. It was most unusual to come across a dead horse from which all the best joints had not already been cut away.

Lieut. Petherick was sent with a patrol through Le Conroy and came under machine gun and rifle fire to the east of the village, losing one man wounded. He, however, dismounted his patrol, and working his way up to the enemy's position, sent back most useful information as to the German strength and dispositions.

Meanwhile Lieut. Oliver with his patrol made good the high ground to the north-east of Pont d'Hasard, but on reaching the bridge at Rouge-Croix, came under rifle and artillery fire, losing one man and two horses killed. He remained in observation close to the bridge and sent in a valuable report. On the extreme right of the Greys' advance, Lieut. Holland Hibbert established communication with the French at Les Reteaux, so that when Captain St. Lawrence withdrew at dark, it was with all his objectives successfully attained. The horses had no grain on this day, with the result that some patrols covered 40 miles on empty stomachs before reaching their billets at Le Sart.

Owing to bridges, culverts and cross-roads being blown up, great difficulty was experienced in evacuating wounded and getting up rations. S.Q.M.S. Frier, however, generally succeeded in reaching the squadron often well in advance of the infantry, and in spite of mines, both blown and concealed.

Lord Altamont, after all, was very far from having an easy time in divisional reserve, as he was sent with his troop to reconnoitre the high ground lying south-west

of Avesnes. He came to an enemy position on the Cartignies-Boulogne railway, and being unable to silence the enemy machine guns, could not get on further. He, however, succeeded in ascertaining that the bridge over the Helpe at Cartignies had been destroyed.

NOVEMBER 7th

On the 7th Lord Altamont's troop was the only one to be employed actively, as the squadron remained in divisional reserve in billets at Prisches. His task was again that of reconnoitring the enemy positions in the direction of Avesnes. After being held up for a short time at Cartignies until the bridge over the Helpe had been completed by the Sappers, he came under some rifle fire on the road to Le Blanc Cheval, but pushing boldly on, captured the village of Haut Lieu. On arriving at the far side of the village, however, he found the enemy in position. Utilising the church tower at Haut Lieu as an observation post, he was able to send in a full report of the enemy's dispositions.

NOVEMBER 8th

On November 8th Captain St. Lawrence brought the squadron up to Haut Lieu where it remained in reserve for the whole day.

NOVEMBER 9th

Sunday, November 9th, was the last day of the war on which the Greys were actively engaged with the enemy. The squadron was sent out through the out-post line at dawn with orders to hold the eastern exits of Sains du Nord and to get contact. Advancing rapidly with patrols out on three parallel roads, the squadron reached Sains early in the day and met with



a tremendous reception. The whole village was decorated with flags and the inhabitants were in their best clothes ready to welcome the troops. One or two stragglers were picked up during the advance, and two Germans were discovered hiding in the village. Contact was, however, not gained, mainly owing to the great difficulty of patrolling the Forêt de Trelon without maps, which were unprocurable. Late in the afternoon French cavalry passed on the right into the forest, but would not part with any maps. In spite of this, patrols did penetrate as far as the Pont du Riz à Groisette. The following message was dropped on the most advanced patrol by an aeroplane :—"Enemy in great quantity and confusion trying to cross bridge three miles on, impossible to drop bombs owing to large number of civilians waving flags." On learning of this, Captain St. Lawrence was tempted to go on, but he had reached the extreme limit of country across which he had been ordered to advance, and so, later in the day, he fell back to Sains which he discovered had been bombed by our aeroplanes four hours after he had gone through it. He then put out an outpost line along the railway west of Liessies, the division having ordered his advanced patrols to be withdrawn.

NOVEMBER 10th

On the following day the squadron was ordered to join a composite force consisting of the 5th cavalry brigade and two infantry brigades under General Bethell. As a result of these orders the remainder of the Regiment did a forced march from Mons-en-Chausseé to Avesnes, which caused considerable discomfort to a raw draft which had just joined to fill the gaps caused by the outbreak of Spanish influenza. The composite squadron received orders on the 11th to proceed to the official

**NOVEMBER 11th**

headquarters of the column at Solre le Chateau, but found all the bridges in that direction blown up with the exception of one of which the pavement still remained and which it crossed in single file. Captain St. Lawrence, when he reported himself and his squadron, was informed that the armistice began at 11 a.m., and that he was to rejoin the remainder of the Regiment at Avesnes.

NOVEMBER 12th-30th

Of the events that took place between the armistice and the return of the Greys to England, there is but little to relate. After a few days halt in barracks at Avesnes to enable the Germans to get well clear of the Allied advance—days which were utilised by the Regiment to have a general clean up—the march to the German frontier was commenced. Although hostilities had ceased, all military precautions were observed, and the 5th cavalry brigade acted as advanced guard to the 1st infantry division. The march, however, was uneventful. There had been much talk of land-mines and booby traps of all sorts, but the Greys did not come across any of them. On entering Belgium there was a formal reception of the Regiment on the 17th by the Burgomaster of Walcourt, and a thanksgiving service for the men on the 20th at Florennes which was attended by headquarters and "A" squadron. On the 28th Lieut. Holland Hibbert arrived from York with the Standard, so that nothing was now wanting to the full pomp of the Greys' entry into Germany, and on the following day, it was carried at the head of the Regiment as it entered the little frontier village of Holonreux. Saturday, November 30th, was devoted to a final polishing up in preparation for the morrow,

DECEMBER

and on Sunday, December 1st, the Greys, for the third time in the history of the Regiment, entered Germany and were billeted round Neudorf. The inhabitants were extremely nervous about the probable behaviour of our troops, and the pastor of Neudorf voiced the general opinion by saying that atrocities always took place with all armies. It was pointed out to him that this might be so when the men were out of hand, but that in the present instance, there was security in the fact that, with British armies, atrocities were never committed.

On December 22nd the Greys were moved to Pepinster, in Belgium, where they were to be quartered until they returned to England. Here a regimental mess was formed for the first time since August, 1914, at York—twenty-six officers dining together that night. The ordinary routine of peace soldiering was now resumed, but the monotony of it was somewhat mitigated by the institution of a regimental pack of hounds—the first meet taking place on January 3rd. Lieut. T. Holland Hibbert acted as huntsman, with Lieuts. Dudgeon and Cator as whippers-in. There were also several military race meetings, and at one of these, the Regiment had their grey horse race which was probably the first occasion on which it had been run outside the United Kingdom.

JANUARY

Owing to the cessation of hostilities, the shadow of demobilization hung over all. Because of it, no one could settle down to anything. Those who were entitled to return to civil life chafed at the delay in being released, and those who were not, bitterly

MARCH

resenting the fact that others, possibly less deserving than themselves, were due to get home before they did. Slow as the process of demobilization seemed to individuals, yet it very quickly depleted the ranks of the Regiment, as small batches of ten or twelve men were leaving for England nearly every day. The horses too were melting away even more quickly than the men. Each cavalry regiment had been formed into a sort of repository for the sale and distribution of surplus horses and, except for horses that were the property of officers and a few mares that were specially suitable for breeding purposes, which were handed over to the veterinary department, all the Government horses in Belgium were disposed of. Consequently, long before they were moved to Antwerp prior to embarkation, the Greys were a dismounted unit. Naturally the officers, finding that there was no work for them to do, put in for leave to which they were fully entitled, so that it was the merest skeleton of a regiment that embarked at Antwerp on March 22nd on H.M.T. Menominee for Southampton. It consisted of Lt.-Col. W. M. Duguid-McCombie, commanding, Captain and Adjutant G. J. R. Cooper, Captain and Quartermaster D. Coutts, Lieuts. M. Oliver, G. Ackroyd and Hon. A. F. St. V. Baring, with 126 other ranks.

Four years and seven months, almost to a day, had the Greys been abroad on service, and this record must have been very inefficiently compiled if, from its pages, it is not apparent that never, in all that time, did they fall short of that high standard of conduct which has been welded into the very framework of the Regiment by its history of unsurpassed achievement during a period of two hundred and fifty years.



Casualties.

	<i>Officers.</i>	<i>Other Ranks.</i>
Killed - - - -	9	82
Died of Wounds - -	1	35
Died through Illness -	—	13
Missing - - - -	—	3
Prisoners of War - -	1	32
Wounded - - - -	26	420
Total - -	<u>37</u>	<u>585</u>

Honours and Awards.

- C.M.G.* - - Brig. Gen. W. LONG.
- D.S.O.* Lt.-Col. A. G. SEYMOUR.
 Lt.-Col. W. F. COLLINS.
 Lt.-Col. DUGUID-McCOMBIE.
 Lt.-Col. F. A. U. PICKERING.
 Major W. LONG.
 Captain S. J. HARDY.
 Captain J. J. READMAN.
 Captain BORWICK.
 Captain DENNISON-PENDER.
 Captain P. R. LAURIE.
 Captain E. J. HARDY.
 2nd Lieut. OSMOND-WILLIAMS.
- M.C. and Bar.* - Captain W. E. ELLIOTT, R.A.M.C.,
 attached Royal Scots Greys.
- M.C.* - - Captain DENNISON-PENDER.
 Captain Viscount EBRINGTON.
 Captain F. J. ROBERTSON.
 Lieut. PIGOT-MOODIE.
 Lieut. W. J. CORNWALLIS.
 Lieut. Lord ST. GERMANS.
 Lieut. Earl of HADDINGTON.
 Lieut. GAISFORD ST. LAWRENCE.
 Lieut. CHASSELLS.
 Lieut. J. H. DUDGEON.
 Lieut. Earl of ALTAMONT.
 Lieut. N. MCCORQUODALE.
 2nd Lieut. L. E. C. DALE-LACE.
 2nd Lieut. H. J. CATOR.
 2nd Lieut. J. G. CRABBE.
 2nd Lieut. V. A. STOOKES,
 attached 14th Squadron, R.F.C.



Honours and Awards (*continued*)

D.C.M. - - S.S.M. ANDREWS.
 S.S.M. REEVES.
 S.S.M. MITCHELL.
 Sergeant CURRIE.
 Sergeant DYKES.
 Sergeant MCHARDY.
 Sergeant BRISKINE.
 Corporal JORDAN.
 Lance Corporal MCGUINNESS.
 Lance Corporal BURTT.
 Private MACREADY.
 Private MUTTER.
 Private DEWAR.
 Private DENT.
 Private HANDLEY.

Military Medal and Bar. Private McLAREN.
 Lance Corporal AITCHESON.

Military Medal. - Sergeant GRAHAM.
 Sergeant MCHARDY.
 Sergeant JONES.
 Sergeant DYKES.
 Sergeant RUSSELL.
 Sergeant PURVIS.
 Sergeant PATERSON.
 Lance Sergeant McLELLAN.
 Lance Sergeant LAUDER.
 Lance Sergeant FERGUSON.
 Corporal ROBERTSON.
 Corporal DAVEY.
 Corporal BOAG.
 Corporal ANDREWS.
 Corporal SMITH.
 Lance Corporal BAIRD.
 Lance Corporal GRIFFITHS.
 Trumpeter FUNNELL.
 Private WATSON.
 Private BAXTER.

THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS

Honours and Awards (*continued*)

<i>Military Medal</i> (<i>continued</i>)	-	Private McCracken.
		Private Walker.
		Private Miller.
		Private McKinley.
		Private Mooney.
		Private Reid.
		Private Jamieson.
		Private Tritton.
		Private Schooler.
		Private McGregor.
		Private MacEwan.
		Private Kingsby.
		Private Reid. (9275)
		Private Cameron.
		Private Tait.
		Private Morrison.
		Private Morgan.
		Private Hunter.
<i>M.S.M.</i>	-	R.Q.M.S. Steele.
		Q.M.S. (O.R.S.) Blunden.
		S/Sgt. Farr. Mathieson.
		Sergeant Stanton.
		Sergeant Thomson.
		Private Douglas.

Foreign Decorations.

<i>Legion of Honour.</i> (<i>French</i>)	-	Lt.-Col. C. B. Bulkeley-Johnson.
		Captain E. H. Bonham.
		Lieut. W. H. B. Callander.
<i>Croix de Guerre.</i> (<i>French</i>)		Major H.R.H. Prince Arthur of
		Connaught, K.G., etc.
		Lieut. J. R. E. Walker.
		Sergeant Robertson.
		Lance Sergeant Storey.
		Private Houston.

Foreign Decorations (*continued*)

<i>Medaille Militaire.</i> (<i>French</i>)	S.S.M. CURRIE. Corporal CLUNIE.
<i>L'Ordre de Leopold.</i> (<i>Belgian</i>)	Major H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, K.G., etc. Major P. R. LAURIE. Captain G. J. R. COOPER.
<i>Croix de Guerre.</i> (<i>Belgian</i>)	Major H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, K.G., etc. Major P. R. LAURIE. R.S.M. ELLIOTT. Sergeant FRIER.
<i>Order of St. George.</i> (<i>Russian</i>)	Lt.-Col. C. B. BULKELEY-JOHNSON.
<i>Order of St. Vlademer.</i> (<i>Russian</i>)	Major H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, K.G., etc.
<i>Order of St. Anne.</i> (<i>Russian</i>)	Lt.-Col. A. LAWSON. Lieut. G. F. A. PIGOT-MOODIE. Lieut. J. G. CRABBE.
<i>Order of St. Stanilas.</i> (<i>Russian</i>)	Lt.-Col. W. F. COLLINS. Major W. LONG. Captain W. M. DUGUID-McCOMBIE. Captain D. COUTTS. Lieut. G. J. R. COOPER. Lieut. E. R. F. COMPTON.
<i>Cross of St. George.</i> (<i>Russian</i>)	R.S.M. CURRIE. S.S.M. CRANSTON. Corporal MCGINN. Private HIGGINS. Private LAWSON. Private LINDSAY. Private HUNTER.
<i>Medal of St. George.</i> (<i>Russian</i>)	R.Q.M.S. STEELE. F.Q.M.S. MUIR. S.Q.M.S. MURRAY.



Battle Honours.

**MONS — RETREAT FROM MONS — MARNE, 1914—
AISNE, 1914—Messines, 1914—YPRES, 1914,
1915—Gheluvelt—Neuve Chapelle—St. Julien—
Bellewarde — ARRAS, 1917 — Scarpe, 1917 —
Cambrai, 1917, 1918—Lys — Hazebrouck —
AMIENS-SOMME, 1918—Albert, 1918—Bapaume,
1918—HINDENBURG LINE—St. Quentin Canal—
— Beaurevoir — PURSUIT TO MONS — FRANCE
AND FLANDERS, 1914-1918.**

Colonels-in-Chief

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, NICHOLAS II.,
EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, K.G.

8/12/94 to 9/3/16

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,
PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT,
K.G., K.T., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.

8/11/21

Colonels

Field Marshal Sir W. R. ROBERTSON, Bt.,
G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.S.O.

9/3/16 to 4/9/25

General Sir PHILIP W. CHETWODE, Bt.
G.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.

5/9/25

The Collect
for
The Royal Scots Greys

by
MATTHEW TOBIAS
Chaplain to Forces, 1930

Almighty God, King of Kings and
Lord of Lords, (1) Give Thy Grace,
we pray Thee, to The Royal Scots
Greys, that we may be Second to None:
(1) in obedience to Thy will, but swifter
than eagles ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
(2) to overtake Thine enemies ♪ ♪ ♪
(3) and spoil the powers of evil in the
strength of Jesus Christ our Lord.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
MILLER, A. D.	1/3/64	7/2/85	Lieut. Capt. 28/6/93 Adj. 18/1/96 to 9/5/00 Major 20/2/02 Lieut.-Col. 19/8/07 Temp. Brig. Gen. 20/1/16	H.P. 19/8/11 Col. H. P. 30/8/11 Hon. Brig. Gen. on Retired Pay 18/3/14 Hon. Brig. Gen. 22/3/18	D.S.O. C.B.E. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 4/12/14	So. Africa : Q's Medal with Clasps K's Medal and Clasps. 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Extra Staff Off. So. Africa 10/7/00 to 23/12/01. D.A.A.G. So. Africa 24/12/01 to 11/9/02. D.A.A.G. N.E. Dist. 6/10/03.
BULKLEY-JOHNSON, C. B.	19/11/67	5/2/87	Lt. 16/3/89 Capt. 13/6/94 Maj. 17/9/02 Lieut.-Col. 19/8/11 to 18/8/15 Bt. Col. 18/2/15 Col. 19/8/15 T/Brig. Gen. 13/11/14		C.B. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 9/10/14, 1/1/16 and 19/4/17	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal Legion of Honour (4th Class)	Employed with Egyptian Army 8/1/99 to 7/1/03. Brig. Com. 13/11/14. A.D.C. (extra) to the King 18/2/15. Brig. Gen. 8th Cav. Brigade.

COLLINS, W. F.	17/9/65	6/2/89	<p>Lt. 15/10/90 Capt. 5/7/96 Maj. 1/4/03 Temporary Lt.-Col. 14/12/14 to 18/8/15 Lieut.-Col. 19/8/15 to 18/8/19 Col. 19/8/19</p>	<p>H.P. 19/8/19 Lon. Gaz. 18/8/19.</p>	<p>D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 4/1/17 20/5/18</p>	<p>So. Africa : Q's. Medal 3 Clasps. 1914 Star with Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal</p>	<p>Adj. Imp. Yeomanry 22/5/01 to 31/3/03. So. Africa 1899-1900 Ops. O.R. Free State Feb. to May, 1900. Paardeberg (17 to 26th Feb.). Poplar Grove. Driefontein. Karee Siding.</p>
LAWSON, A.			<p>Capt. 20/3/01 Maj. 9/1/04 Lt.-Col. 2nd Dragon Gds. 1/4/15 Col. 14/4/18.</p>	<p>H.P. Jan., 1926 (ill health)</p>	<p>C.M.G. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 10/9/01 29/7/02 19/10/14 1/1/16</p>	<p>1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal</p>	<p>A.D.C. to Comdr. 1st A. Corps, Alder- shot 15/9/02 to 25/10/04. Brig. Maj. 1st Cav. Brigade, Aldershot 26/10/04 to 30/9/05. Brig. Major, South Africa 1/5/09 to 30/4/13. France and Belgium 1914-18 Brig. Comdr. 2nd Cav. Brigade, France 17/4/18 to 13/5/19. Brig. Comdr. Cav. Brigade, Egypt 16/4/20 to 22.</p>

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
SEYMOUR, A. G.			Lt. 23/3/98 Capt. 22/5/01 Maj. 19/8/11 T/Lt.-Col. 31/5/16 T/Brig. Gen. 14/4/17 Bt. Lt.-Col. 1/1/18	H.P. from 10 Hrs. 6/7/23 Lon. Gaz. 5/7/23	D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 8/2/01 22/6/15 4/1/17 11/12/17	So. Africa 1899 to 01 : Q's Medal 4 Clasps. 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Temp. Brig. Gen. 1917. So. Africa, O. R. Colony, Feb. to Mar., 1900, includ- ing Paardeberg, Karee Siding, Drie- fontein, Poplar Gr. Transvaal 1900 to 1901. 1914-19—On Staff, France & Belgium, 16/8/14 to 28/8/14 7/10/14 to 15/9/18. In charge of North- ants Yeomanry 31/5/16 to 13/4/17. Brig. Comdr. 8th Cav. Brig., France 14/4/17 to 14/2/18. Brig. Comdr. 6th Cav. Brig. 15/2/18 to 14/9/18. Private Secy. to G. O. C. in C., Army of the Rhine 18/4/19 to 8/5/19. Temp. Brig. Gen. 14/4/17 to 14/9/18. Col. 10th Hussars 6/7/19.

PARKER, G. (Riding Master).	4/6/59	15/1/96		Retd. Pay 28/3/14 Lon. Gaz. 27/3/14	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 11/12/17	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Granted Hon. rank of Lt.-Col. Emp. during 1914-19 War.
ST. CLAIR, Hon. A. J. M.	16/2/75	9/12/96	Lt. 12/4/99 Capt. 27/7/01	Resigned 4/11/11 Lon. Gaz. 3/11/11	Order of Rising Sun (4th Class) M.V.O. (4th Class)	So. Africa : Q's Medal 4 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps 1914 : British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa 1899-1902 Ops. O. R. Free State, May, 1900. Action at Zand River. Ops. Transvaal, May and June, 1900. Actions Johannesburg, Pretoria, Diamond Hill. Adj. Cav. Depot, Elandsfontein 30/11/00 to May, 1902. Cape Colony, May, 1902.
SWETENHAM, F.	21/6/76	9/12/96	Lt. 12/4/99 Capt. 15/11/01 Maj. 9/2/11			So. Africa : Q's Medal 3 Clasps 1914 : 1914 Star and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa, 1899-1900: Relief of Kimberley. Ops. in Transvaal. Ops. in O. R. State, Feb. to March, 1900. Actions at Paardeberg, Poplar Grove, Driefontein, Karee Sid. Adj. Imp. Yeomanry 1/2/06 to 31/3/10. Adj. Territorials 1/4/08 to 31/1/11.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
FORDYCE, R. D.	9/1/75	13/4/98	Lt. 4/10/99 Capt. 7/2/02 Maj. 1/8/14	Through ill health on H.P. 6/2/19 Lon. Gaz. 5/2/19		So. Africa : Q's Medal 1 Clasp	So. Africa 1899-1900: Relief of Kimberley was severely wounded.
LONG, W.	26/7/79	20/5/99	Lt. 10/7/00 Capt. 23/4/02 Maj. 1/4/15 T/Lt.-Col. 14/12/15 T/Brig. Gen. 28/11/16 Bt. Lt. Col. 1/1/17		D.S.O. C.M.G. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 29/7/02 9/12/14 30/11/15 and 13/11/16	1899-1902 : Q's Medal 2 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps 1914 : 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa 1899-1902: Transvaal, May, 1901 to May, 1902. Zululand Frontier, Sept. and Oct., 1901. Cape Colony, May, 1902. (Severely Wounded). France and Belgium 1914-17 : Temp. Lt.-Col. 6th Batt. Wilts 1/4/15. Temp. Brig. Gen. Comdg. 56th Inf. Brigade.
TOWSE, H. B.	9/11/66	14/6/02	Capt. 14/6/02	10/12/13 Lon. Gaz. 9/12/13	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 20/8/01 1914-19 : Mentioned in	So. Africa : Q's Medal 3 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps 1914-19 :	Capt. Imp. Yeomanry Transvaal, May and June, 1900 ; 30/11/00 to June, 1901 ; Oct., 1901 to Jan., 1902.

LAWRENCE, W. E.	23/5/71	13/8/92 Lt. 22/5/94 Capt. 29/11/99 Bt. Maj. 1/1/16 T/Lt.Col. 29/9/16 Bt.Lt.Col. 28/12/17	To "Greys " as Captain Restored to Estab. Capt. 1/1/12	Retired 28/1/14 Lon. Gaz. 27/1/14	Legion of Hon. 4th Class Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 1/1/16	So. Africa : Q's Medal 4 Clasps 1914 Star and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Despatches Lon. Gaz. 8/2/17 6/8/18 5/7/19	O. R. Colony, July to Aug., 1901. Cape Colony, Sept., 1901. West Pretoria, July to 29/11/00. Frederickstad, 17th to 25th Oct. N. of O. R. 1900. 1914 : Serving with East African Field Force.	A.D.C. to Maj. Gen. Inf. Bgde, Gibraltar 26/7/98 to 16/3/99. A.D.C. G.O.C. Belfast District 24/3/99 to 27/2/00. Spec. Ser. Rhodesian F. Force 19/1/00 to 27/2/00. A.D.C. Lt. Gen. Rhodesian F. Force 28/2/00 to 4/4/01. Ops. ; Transvaal, July to Oct., 1900. Adj. Sch. Mtd. Inf. 28/5/03. Comd. 5th M. G. Squad 1/7/16 to 4/8/16. France and Belgium 11/9/14 to 20/8/16.
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OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT.	13/1/83	8/5/01	Lt. 14/1/03 Capt. 27/4/07 Bt. Maj. 14/10/13 Maj. 19/8/15 Lt.-Col. 2/6/19 Maj. Gen. 27/9/20		K.G. K.T. G.C.M.G. G.C.V.O. C.B. Order of Leopold 1st Class Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 19/10/14 11/12/17	Belgian W. Cross French W. Cross 1914 Star and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	A.D.C. to the King 30/6/05. A.D.C. to C. in C. Armies in France 5/8/14 to 10/3/16; 11/3/16 to 1/9/16. Gen. St. Officer to C. in C. France 3/3/17 to 8/1/19. With Regt. in France 2/9/16-28/9/16 H.Q. 2nd Cav. Div. 29/9/16 G. S. O. Canadian Corps. 3/3/17
DUGUID-McCOMBIE, W. M.	2/4/74	6/12/99	Lt. 3/10/00 Capt. 23/6/09 Maj. 19/8/15 Act. Lt.-Col. 3/5/18 Lt.-Col. 19/8/19	19/8/23 Lon. Gaz. 18/8/23	D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 29/7/02 19/10/14 20/12/18 5/7/19	So. Africa : Q's Medal 3 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps 1914 Star and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa 1900-1902: Transvaal, Oct. to 29/11/00; 30/11/00 to May, 1902. Actions : W. of Pretoria and Elands River. Zululand Frontier, Sept. to Oct., 1901 Cape Colony, May, 1902. France and Belgium 1914-1919: Comd. of Regt. in France and Belgium from 3/5/18

Wounded
17/5/15

HENLEY, Hon. A. M.	4/8/73	23/5/00 From Ranks Imp. Yeo.	Lt. 28/8/01 Adj. 11/10/03 to 10/10/06 Capt. 16/11/07 Trans. to 5th Lancers 16/11/07	Retd. 5th Lancers as Hon. Brig. Gen. 13/9/19 Lon. Gaz. 12/9/19	C.M.G. D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 22/6/15 15/6/16 4/1/17 15/5/17 11/12/17 20/12/18 5/7/19	So. Africa : Q's Medal 3 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps 1914 : Star 1914 : Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa 1899-1902: Transvaal, May and June, 1900, and 30/11/00 to May, 1902. Action : Paarde- berg & Pretoria, Zululand Frontier, Sept. and Oct., 1901. Cape Colony, May, 1902. 1914 : France and Belgium with 5th Lancers.
PICKERING, F. A. U.	2/8/81	5/1/01	Lt. 15/11/01 Capt. 10/4/11 Maj. 29/1/17 Killed in Action 23/12/17.		D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 4/1/17 and 11/12/17	So. Africa : Q's Medal 4 Clasps 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa 1901-02. Transvaal, Oct. to May, 1902. Cape Colony, May, 1902. 1914 : France and Belgium. Temp. Lt.-Col. 9th Batt. Rifle Brigade 22/10/16.
HARDY, S. J.	1/7/82	9/3/01	Lt. 28/2/02 Capt. & Adj. 1/8/11 Maj. 25/12/17 Lt.-Col. 19/8/23 Wounded	Retired Pay 1/3/25 Lon. Gaz. 28/2/25	D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 22/6/15 4/1/17 15/5/17	So. Africa : Q's Medal with Clasps 1914 : Star 1914 : Star and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa : Cape Colony, May, 1902. 1914 : France and Belgium. Staff Capt., France 16/10/15 to 29/12/15. Brig. Maj. 30/12/15 to 16/4/17.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
SPROT, J. M. F.	12/11/81	8/5/01 Re-Appnt. 2nd Lt. 8/9/14	Lt. 26/2/02 Capt. 26/10/12	Resigned 19/8/08 Lon. Gaz. 18/8/08		So. Africa : Q's Medal 3 Clasps 1914 : 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa, 1902 : Transvaal, May, 1902. Cape Colony, May, 1902. 1914 : Service unknown.
BONHAM, Sir E. H.	2/7/75	26/6/01 From Ranks Imp. Yeo.	Lt. 2/8/02 Capt. 6/10/11 Maj. 6/2/19	Retired 10/12/19 Lon. Gaz. 9/12/19	M.V.O. Legion of Honour 5th Class Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 20/12/18	So. Africa : Q's Medal 3 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps 1914 : 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	So. Africa 1899-1902. Transvaal, Oct. to 29/11/00 ; 30/11/01 to May, 1902. O. R. Colony, May and June, 1900. Zululand Frontier, Sept. and Oct., 1901. Cape Colony, May, 1902. A.D.C. to Brig. Gen. O. R. Colony, 16/5/04 to 27/10/06. A.D.C. Maj. Gen. S. China, 28/10/06 to 15/5/08. Extra Equeerry to Prince Arthur 5/7/11 France and Belgium 1914-1919

LAURIE, P. R.	5/11/80	26/2/02 From Vols.	Lt. 11/10/03 Adj. 1/10/09 Capt. 6/10/11 T/Maj. 29/12/15 Bt. Maj. 1/1/17 T/Lt.-Col. 21/11/17	Retired 6/7/19	D.S.O. Order of Leo- pold 5th Class Belg. Order of Crown with War Cross 4th Class Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 22/6/15 1/1/16 4/1/17 11/12/17 20/12/18 5/7/19	So. Africa : Q's Medal 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal Belgian War Cross French War Cross	A.D.C. to G. O. C. in C. Southern Comd. 1/8/11 to 29/2/12. A.D.C. to Insptr. Gen. Home Forces, 1/3/12 1914-19 : France and Belgium A.P.M. 3rd Cav. Div. and Cav. Corps. 1915 A.P.M. 8th Army Corps. 7/3/16 P.M. 2nd Army 21/11/17 P.M. 4th Army
WINCH, A. B.	3/9/83	30/4/02 From Militia	Lt. 3/3/07 Capt. 6/10/11	Retired as Lt.-Col. 4/5/19 Lon. Gaz. 3/5/19	O.B.E. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 13/7/16	So. Africa : Q's Medal 4 Clasps Soudan, 1912 Medal and Clasp	So. Africa, 1902 : Transvaal, O. R. Colony, Mar. to May, 1902. Cape Colony, Jan. to March, 1902. Empl. with Egyptian Army 25/11/09 to 7/3/13. Soudan : Opers. against Beir and Annak Tribes, S.-E. Soudan.
BORWICK, M.	25/6/82	11/6/02	Lt. 15/1/07 Capt. 6/10/11 Bt. Maj. 1/1/19 Lt.-Col. 23/1/20	23/1/20 Lon. Gaz. 22/1/20	D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 15/5/17 11/12/17 20/12/18	Mediterranean Med. So. Africa 1914-19 : 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Ch. Inst. Cav. School as Bt. Maj. 1/1/19. Served in Mediter- anean. France and Belgium 1914-1919

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
SOTHERON-ESTCOURT, T. E.	27/4/81	17/2/04	Lt. 16/11/07 Capt. 4/11/11	H. Pay, ill health thro' injuries on Active Ser. 30/4/19 Lon. Gaz. 29/4/19		1914 : 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	A.D.C. to Gov. and C. in Ch. Dominion of New Zealand 2/6/11 to 9/12/12. A.M.S. to G.O.C. New Zealand Military Forces 20/12/12 to 15/6/14. 1914 : France and Belgium 15/8/14 to 6/9/14. Prisoner of War, 1914.
JOHNSTONE, M. J. C. S. Spec. Res.	16/6/82	4/12/01	Lt. 22/10/04 Capt.			1914 Star B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 1914-1916
READMAN, J. J.	6/1/84	2/11/04	Lt. 25/11/09 Capt. 4/11/11 Maj. 2/10/19 Lt.-Col. 1/3/25	1/10/28 Lon. Gaz. 30/9/28	D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 15/6/16	1914-19 : 1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Adj. Terr. Force 12/10/11. Opers. ; France and Belgium 12/5/15 to 24/8/16 ; 14/1/17 to 20/4/18. Wounded 23/3/18
HARDY, E. J.	6/2/84	29/11/05 From Militia	Lt. 15/1/10 Capt. & Adj. 4/11/11 Maj. 10/12/19	20/11/25 Lon. Gaz. 19/11/25	D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 4/1/17	Great War, 1914-18 : 1914 Star and Clasp British War Medal	1914-21 : France and Belgium 17/8/14 to 4/11/17 ; 11/4/18 to 11/11/18. Instr. Cav. School, Tactical Wing,

EBRINGTON, Viscount H. W.	14/6/88	8/5/07	Lt. 25/6/10 Capt. 15/11/14 Bt. Maj. 1/1/19 Maj. 23/1/20	Retired 13/5/22 Lon. Gaz. 15/5/22	M.C. Mentioned in Despatches 20/5/18 20/12/18	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	3/9/19 to 31/1/20. Cav. Sch. Equitn. Wing 1/2/20 to 10/8/22.
			Wounded	19/1/15 and	12/8/18		1914-19 : France and Belgium. Sig. Service 23/4/15. S. Capt. 1st Cav. Bde. 30/12/15. Bde. Maj. 2nd Cav. Bde. 23/1/17. G.S.O.2 2nd Cav. Div. 21/12/18.
DENISON-PENDER, H. D. From 15th Hussars (29/5/07)	2/4/84	15/6/07	Lt. 10/4/11 Capt. 15/11/14 Bt. Maj. 1/11/17	Retd. 2/7/19 Lon. Gaz. 1/7/19	D.S.O. M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 17/2/15 4/1/17 21/12/17	1914 Star and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-18 : France and Belgium G.S.O.3 6th Div. 6/12/15. Bde. Maj. 6th Inf. Bde. 25/6/16. G.S.O.2 33rd Div. 6/7/17. G.S.O.2 51st Div. 14/1/19.
MONTGOMERIE, Hon. F. C.	25/1/87	11/12/07	To 2nd Life Guards as 2nd Lieut. 11/4/10 Lt. 10/6/10 Capt. 12/1/15	Resigned Commission 3/4/19 Lon. Gaz. 2/4/19	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 13/7/16	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium Adj. Terr. Force 1/2/14 to 11/4/16. Gen. Staff Officer (3rd Grade) 12/4/16 to-16.
	Transfer	red to 2nd	Life Guards 11/4/10.				

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
Ross, T. M. Qr. Master	5/5/62	Hon. Lt. 20/2/01	Hon. Capt. 20/2/11 Major	Retired 1/12/19 Lon. Gaz. 4/12/19		So. Africa : Q's Medal 6 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps Brit. War Medal Vic. Medal	S. Africa 1899-1902 : Transvaal, May and June, 1900. 30/11/00 to May, 1902. O. R. Colony, Feb. and May, 1902. Cape Colony, May, 1902. France and Belgium 1916-1918.
Pigot-MOODIE, G. F. A.	3/11/88	19/9/08	Lt. 27/6/11 Temp. Capt. 1/4/15 Capt. 16/10/15 Maj. 19/8/23	Now Serving	M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 19/10/14 4/1/17 5/6/19	1914 Star and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	Bde. M. G. Offr. 5th Cav. Bde. 28/5/15 Temp. Maj. M. G. Corps 3/9/16 to 27/10/16. Temp. Lt.-Col. M. G. Corps 28/10/16 to 18/4/18 ; 20/4/18 to 4/6/19. Inst. M. G. Corps (graded Inst. Sch. of Musk. British Armies in France, 16th Sept. to 27th Oct., 1916. Command 54th M. G. Batt., Palestine, May, 1918. 1914-1917 France and Belgium ; 1917 E.E.F.

ACLAND, Sir W. H. D. (Spec. Res.)	16/5/88	18/12/09	Capt. Devon Yeomanry Maj. R. F. C. and R. F. A. (Transf. to above)	Spec. Res.	Order of St. George, 4th Class M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 1/1/16	1914-19 : 1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 25/3/15 to 1/7/15. Wounded.
LEVEN AND MELVILLE Earl of	6/8/90	23/2/10	Lt. 5/7/11 Capt. 16/10/15	Placed on H. P., ill health thro' wounds 8/4/19 Lon. Gaz. 7/4/19 Wounded	22/8/14	1914 Star and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium 17/8/14 to 22/8/14 ; 4/7/17 to 16/8/18. Rejoined Regt. in France after escap- ing from Belgium (Prisoner of War).
CALLANDER, W. H. B.	25/6/96	13/4/10	Lt. 1/8/11 Capt. 16/10/15 T/Maj. 25/2/18 Bt. Maj. 3/6/19	19/3/27 as Major Lon. Gaz. 18/3/27	Legion of Hon. (5th Class) Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 15/5/17 5/7/19	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 17/8/14 to 24/11/14; 16/2/16 to 11/11/18. Staff Capt. 5th Cav. Brig., France, 1/7/16 to 23/12/17. D.A.A.G. Cav. Corps, France, 24/12/17 to 8/5/19. Adjut. Tactical Wing Cav. Sch. Nether- avon, 24/7/19. Adjut. Cav. Depot 1/2/23 to 22/10/26.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
ST. GERMANS, J. G. C., Earl of	11/6/90	15/6/10	Lt. 6/10/11 Capt. 1/7/16	Resigned Commission 5/6/19 Lon. Gaz. 4/6/19 Died 31/3/22	M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 14/11/16	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	A.D.C. 15/7/13 to 16/12/15. On Staff in France and Belgium 17/8/14 to 9/4/15; 27/6/15 to 18/6/17. Wounded 10/6/17.
CORNWALLIS, W. S.	14/3/92	9/9/11	Lt. 19/8/12 Actg. Capt. 13/12/16 Capt. 25/12/17	24/9/24 Lon. Gaz. 23/9/24 Wounded 14/9/14.	M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 5/7/19	1914 Star & Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	Gen. Staff Officer of Cav. Corps, France, 4/7/18 to 9/6/19. A.D.C. to C. in C., Britain, 10/6/19. Officer Coy. Gent.'s Cadets, R. Mil. Col. 24/9/20 to 24/4/24. Attached to Royals, May, 1924.
BOWLBY, L. H. S.	17/4/92	9/9/11	Lt. 28/5/13	Wounded Killed	15/1/16. 4/6/16.	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-16 : France.
FAIRBAIRN, S. G.	13/10/92	9/9/11		Resigned Commission 10/9/12 Lon. Gaz. 9/9/12			

COOPER, G. J. R.	22/7/90	2/9/13	Lt. (Temp.) 15/11/14 Lt. 15/7/15 Actg. & Capt. (Acting) 1/8/17 Capt. & Adjt. 10/12/19	Resigned 15/7/22 Lon. Gaz. 14/7/22	Order of Leopold with Palm (5th Class) Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 19/10/14	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal Belgian War Cross	France and Belgium 16/14 to 22/10/14; 3/2/16 to 11/11/18. Wounded 21/10/14
CRABBE, J. G.	12/8/92	7/2/12	Lt. 26/3/14 Capt. 4/7/18 Bt. Maj. 1/1/19 Maj. 1/3/25	Retd. 21/10/25 Lon. Gaz. 20/10/25	M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 19/10/14 1/1/16 29/12/18	1914 Star & Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 1914-1918. Adjt. Bed. Yeo. 27/8/15. G.S.O.3 1st Cav. Div. 9/1/18. A/Bde. Maj. 2nd Cav. Bde. 23/3/18.
SCOTT ROBSON, H. N.	3/6/91	7/2/12	Temp. Lt. 15/11/14 to 22/4/15 Lt. 23/4/15 A/Capt. 21/6/18 Capt. 2/10/19	Retd. 30/9/22 Lon. Gaz. 29/9/22 Wounded 26/4/15	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 5/7/19	1914 Star & Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-18 : France and Belgium
GAISFORD, ST. LAWRENCE C. H.	18/6/93	4/9/12	T/Lt. 20/12/14 Lt. 15/7/15 A/Capt. 18/12/17 Capt. 2/10/19 Maj. 21/10/25	Now Serving Wounded 28/10/14	M.C.	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Opers : France and Belgium 27/8/14 to 17/11/14 ; 4/5/15 to 11/11/18.
BAILLIE, Sir G. G. S.	2/6/93	4/9/12	Killed	in Action, 7/9/14.		1914 Star & Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 1914

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
RODNEY, Lord G. B. H. G.	2/11/91	19/1/12	Lt. 1/4/15 T/Capt. 10/8/16. Capt. 4/7/18	Resigned 18/5/19 Lon. Gaz. 17/5/19		1914 Star & Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 1914-1919 Attd. M. G. Corps. 20/5/16 to 8/8/17.
COUTTS, D. Qr. Master.	2/1/75	Lt. 14/6/13	Capt. 18/2/15 Maj. 3/6/19	Retired 31/12/24 Lon. Gaz.	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 19/10/14 17/2/15	So. Africa : Q's Medal 5 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps 1914 : 1914 Star & Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	S. Africa 1899-1902 : Relief of Kimberley O. R. Colony ; Paardeberg, Driefontein. Transvaal ; Johannesburg, Diamond Hill. Slightly wounded. 1914-18 : France and Belgium 1914-1919.
COMPTON, E. R. F.	14/12/91	28/1/14	Lt. 6/10/15 T/Capt. 5/8/16	Resigned Commission 21/8/19 Lon. Gaz. 20/8/19 Wounded	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 19/10/14 2/11/14	1914 : 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium -8/14 to 5/11/14 ;
HILL, A. F. H., Lord	21/8/95	12/8/14	Lt. 6/6/16 Capt. 10/11/20	Resigns Commission 5/4/24 Lon. Gaz. 4/4/24	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 5/7/19	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	A.D.C. Gov. Gen., Union of S. Africa, 9/12/21. 1914-19 : France and Belgium

JARDINE, R. J.	12/6/93	15/8/14	Killed in Action, 13/9/17.		1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 1914-1917 Attd. R.A.F. 1917
STIRLING-STUART, D. R.	7/7/94	28/8/14	Resigned 7/12/21 Lon. Gaz. 6/12/21		1914 : 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium
DOUGLAS-PENNANT, Hon. H. N.	6/8/94	1/10/14	Resigns Commission 3/2/20 Lon. Gaz. 2/2/20		1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium A.D.C. to G.O.C. 68th Div. 22/2/17 to 7/4/17, and to G.O.C. 59th Div. 8/4/17.
DUDGEON, J. H.	19/3/93	14/8/14	Now Serving Wounded	M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 5/6/16 28/11/17	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium 6/5/15 to 1/12/16 ; 25/3/17 to 11/1/18 ; 16/5/18 to 11/11/18.
OSMOND-WILLIAMS, T.D.	26/2/83	19/9/14	Killed in Action.	D.S.O. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 5/4/15	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Promoted from ranks to 2nd Lt. for gal- lantry in the field. 1914 : France and Belgium.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
WILSON, A. H. In ranks 23 years 175 days. W.O. 1 year 109 days.	21/12/74	1/10/14 From Ranks	Lt. 1/7/17 T/Capt. 10/5/17	Retd. as Capt. 3/2/20 Lon. Gaz. 2/2/20		S. Africa : Q's Medal 6 Clasps K's Medal 2 Clasps 1914 Star & and Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	Employed Adj. Vol. Force. 1914-18 : Operations in France and Belgium.
WEYMOUTH, J. A. Viscount.	29/11/95	16/12/14				1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-16 : France and Belgium.
MAY, P. L. (On prob.)		4/9/14		Killed in Action 13/2/16.		1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-16 : Operations, France and Belgium.
SEYMOUR, C. E. (On prob.)		4/9/14	Lt. 1/7/17 T/Capt. 7/11/17	Killed in Action	13/2/16.	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1915-19 France and Belgium. A.D.C. 5th Cav. Bde. 4/6/15. G.S.O.3 7/11/17.

CRAWFORD, A. W. E.	5/7/96	16/6/15	Lt. 1/7/17 Capt. 1/1/22	Now Serving		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19 : Operations in France and Belgium.
CATOR, H. J.	25/1/97	16/6/15	Lt. 1/7/17	Resigns Commission 1/4/20 Lon. Gaz. 31/3/20	M.C.	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1915-19 : Ops. in France and Belgium.
OLIVER, M.	22/1/98	11/8/15	Lt. 1/7/17	Resigns Commission 4/11/19 Lon. Gaz. 3/11/19	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 5/7/19	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19 : France and Belgium 9/2/17 to 11/11/18.
ROBERTSON, F. J.	1/11/76	27/8/15	Temp. Lieut. 9/12/15 Lt. 1/7/17 Restored to Est. 28/6/21	Retd. as Capt. 1/9/21 Lon. Gaz. 2/9/21	M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 16/1/18 Wounded.	So. Africa : Q's Medal 3 Clasps 1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	Employed Dorset Yeo. 9/12/15 to 13/11/17. Gallipoli 17/8/15 to 1/12/15. Egypt 17/1/16 to 18/3/16. Egyptian Exp. Force 19/3/16 to 31/10/18.
DALE-LACE, L. E. C.	25/2/95	4/11/15	Lt. 1/7/17	Resigns Commission 5/6/19 Lon. Gaz. 4/6/19	M.C.	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	War Office, Feb., 1918 1914-18 : Ops. in France and Belgium.
TENNANT, H.	9/6/97	24/11/15		Killed in Action	27/5/17.	British War Medal Vic. Medal	Attached to 52nd Squadron, R.F.C.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
ANDERSON, F. le H.	8/3/98	26/1/16	Lt. 26/7/17	Resigns Commission 10/12/19 Lon. Gaz. 9/12/19		British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 15/4/17 to 10/6/18; 9/11/18 to 11/11/18.
LADLAW, R.	24/2/97	26/1/16	Lt. 26/7/17	Placed on H. Pay, ill health, 11/11/20 Lon. Gaz. 10/11/20	Wounded 1/4/18	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-18: France and Belgium 30/6/16 to 15/4/17; 21/10/17 to 9/4/18.
WALKER, J. P. E. (Spec. Res.)		15/8/14	T/Lt. 6/7/16 Lt. 1/7/17 Wounded	Retired 1919	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 8/11/18	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19: France and Belgium
LAWSON-JOHNSON, E. A. (Spec. Res.)		Temp. 31/8/14	Lt. 2/12/15	Retired 1919	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 7/4/18	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19: France and Belgium Wounded 16/1/16, 10/4/17 and 30/11/17
ROLLO, W. H. (Spec. Res.)		15/8/14	Lt. 1/7/17	Retired 1919	M.C.	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19: France and Belgium
HOUSTON, Boswall C. (Spec. Res.)	17/4/94	4/10/16	Lt. 4/4/18			British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19: France and Belgium

DRUMMOND, L. (Spec. Res.)		19/9/14	Lt. 1/7/17			British War Medal Vic. Medal	1919-19: France and Belgium
CURRIE, R.	9/7/78	15/1/16 From Ranks	Lt. 15/7/17	Retired Pay 6/1/23 Lon. Gaz. 5/1/23	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 19/10/14	So. Africa: Q's Medal 3 Clasps French Milt. Medal for Gallantry 1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19: Ops. in France and Belgium.
RAYMOND, E. N. L.	9/10/96	29/11/15	Lt. 4/9/17	Placed on H. Pay, ill health, 5/8/22 Lon. Gaz. 4/8/22		1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1915-19: France and Belgium
KNOWLES, A.	17/2/97	7/4/16	Lt. 7/10/17	Resigns Commission 2/7/19 Lon. Gaz. 1/7/19		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19: France and Belgium
HOLLAND, Hibbert T. (Spec. Res.)		5/8/14	Lt. 20/5/16			British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19: France and Belgium
FORSTER, A. H.	7/2/98	19/7/16	Lt. 19/1/18 Wounded Died of Wounds 10/3/19	17/10/18 Wounded 10/3/19		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-18: France and Belgium
DARLING, W. (On prob. Arth.)		29/3/16	Wounded	8/8/16		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-18: France and Belgium

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
CHASSELS, W. (On prob. Atth.)		Temp. 29/3/16	Lt. 1/7/17	Retd. 1919	M.C.	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19 : France and Belgium
ALTMONT, Earl of, U de B.	30/3/98	16/8/16	Lt. 16/2/18 Capt. 14/3/23 Adj. 2/8/23	23/4/28 Lon. Gaz. 22/4/28	M.C.	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1917-19 : France and Belgium
DUGDALE, T. L.	20/7/97	27/10/16	Lt. 27/4/18 Adj. 4/8/20 Capt. 19/8/23	10/12/27 Lon. Gaz. 9/12/27		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1917-19 : France and Belgium
NORTH, J. B.	6/12/96	27/10/16		Placed on H. Pay, ill health, 25/9/19 Lon. Gaz. 24/9/19			M. G. Corps 11/10/17 to 23/1/18. Labour Corps 24/1/18.
ROBERTS, P. H.		Temp. 21/10/14				British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-18 : France and Belgium
FILMER, V. R. R.		Temp. 24/7/16		Killed in Action,	25/11/17.	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-17. France and Belgium

HADDINGTON, Earl of	18/9/94	8/8/14	Lt. 20/5/16 Capt. 23/1/20	Resigned Commission Lon. Gaz. 24/4/20	M.C. Wounded 23/3/18	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1915-19 : France and Belgium
AKROYD, G.	10/2/98	1/5/17	Lt. 1/11/18	4/11/19 Lon. Gaz. 3/11/19		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1917-19 : France and Belgium
BARING, Hon. A. F. St. V.	7/4/98	1/5/17	Lt. 1/11/18	Resigns Commission 20/1/23 Lon. Gaz. 19/1/23		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19 : France and Belgium
KINGSBOROUGH, Viscount, R. H. E.	27/11/97	5/7/17	Lt. 5/1/19	Retired on H. Pay, ill health, 10/6/22 Lon. Gaz. 9/6/22		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19 : France and Belgium
BAILLIE, Sir A. W. M. Bart.	5/5/98	5/7/17	Lt. 5/1/19	Resigns Commission 8/7/19 Lon. Gaz. 7/7/19		British War Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19 : France and Belgium
BALDWIN, H.	19/3/88	8/9/17 From Ranks M. G. Corps	Lt. 8/3/19	Retd. Grt. Lon. Gaz. 18/2/22		1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium 17/8/14 to 11/11/18.
McCORQUODALE, N. D.	19/11/98	21/12/17	Lt. 21/6/19 Capt. 19/8/23	Now Serving	M.C.	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19 : France and Belgium

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
BASSET, R. L.	30/11/98	24/4/18		Resigns Commission 25/9/19 Lon. Gaz. 24/9/19		British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 19/10/18
CURZON, Visct. R. N.	3/7/98	24/4/18		Resigns Commission 2/7/19 Lon. Gaz. 1/7/19		British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 11/11/18
DEWHURST, J. A.	23/2/99	21/8/18	Lt. 21/2/20	Resigns Commission 18/10/22 Lon. Gaz. 17/10/22			France and Belgium 17/1/19
ARTHUR, E. S.	1/10/99	21/8/18	Lt. 21/2/20	Resigned Commission 23/2/26 Lon. Gaz. 22/2/26			France and Belgium 17/1/19
FINLAY, I. A.			MAJOR			B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19 : France and Belgium.
PAWSON, C. R.			Lieut. T/Capt. 9/11/17	Retired		1914 Star B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium

PAWSON, J. J.			Lieut. T/Capt. 15/4/16 T/Major 3/9/16	Retired		1914 Star B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium Staff Capt. R.A. 15th Div. 4/4/16 2nd-in-C. 6th Bn. Cameron High. 3/6/16
ELLIOTT-LOCKHART, R. H.			Lt.-Colonel	Retired 24/9/18		B.W. Medal Vic. Medal	1916 E. E. F. 1917-1918 : France and Belgium
DUCKWORTH, A. C.			Captain Bt. Major 3/6/18		Ment. in Despatches 3/1/17 and 20/5/19	1914 Star B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium
FIELDEN, J.			Captain			1914 Star B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium
COATES, R.			2/Lieut.	Retired 1919		B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19 : France and Belgium
COATES, A. E.			Lieut. 20/6/18	Retired 1919		B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19 : France and Belgium
HADLEY, J.			2/Lieut.	Retired 1919		B. W. Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19 : France and Belgium
STANTON, J. P.	10/10/99	16/7/19	Lt. 6/7/21 Capt. & Adjt. 6/9/26	Now Serving			Sp. Appt. (Class E.E.) Sch. of Inten., Zeitoun, 1/7/21 to 27/10/21. Attd. to Sudan Field Force 4/4/30.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
WICKHAM-BOYNTON, H. F.	27/9/00	23/12/21	Lt. 23/12/23 Capt. 16/8/30	Now Serving			
HALL-WATT, A. D.	6/6/01	23/12/21		Resigned Commission 15/9/23 Lon. Gaz. 14/9/23			
ADAIR, D. H.	26/1/99	16/12/14 7th Dr. Guards	Lt. 19/8/22 " To "Greys" Capt. 4/3/23	Now Serving		1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal Iraq M. and Clasp	Empl. Egypt. Army 18/8/22 to 16/1/25. Attd. to Sudan Def. Force 17/1/25. 1914-21 : France and Belgium -10/15 to -4/18. Iraq Opers. 1919-20.
FLOWDEN, P. S.	24/3/99	24/4/18 17th Lancers	To "Greys" as Lieut. 20/9/22 Capt. 1/3/25	Retd. 16/8/30		British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium 19/10/18 to 11/11/18. A.D.C. to High Com. Egypt, 23/10/26 to 6/11/28. Rejoined Regiment, 5/7/30.
CONNAL, W. P.	24/8/02	31/8/22	Lt. 31/8/24	Now Serving			

McKerrow, J. W.	26/5/02	31/8/22	Lt. 31/8/24	Resigned Commission 1/6/27 Lon. Gaz. 31/5/27			1914-19 : France and Belgium Gen. St. Officer 6th Army Corps, France, 16/1/16 to 17/8/16. Brig. Maj. 64th Inf. Brig., France, 18/8/16 to 13/3/18. Gen. St. Officer 21st Division, France, 14/3/18 to 4/4/19. Brig. Maj. 1st Brig. S. Div., Army on Rhine, 1/5/19 to 9/9/19. Brig. Maj. Zhob Force India, 17/5/20 to 10/8/20. D.A.A.G., India, 15/2/22 to 18/12/23. G.S.O. 2. War Office 22/1/24 to 14/2/26.
MACDOUGALL, A. I.	24/1/88	8/2/08 5th Lrs.	Lt. 22/5/09 Adj. 22/5/13 Capt. 5/11/14 Maj. 8/4/21 5th Lancers Maj. 23/11/21 6th Drags To "Greys" as Maj. 23/11/21 Lieut.-Col. 1/10/28	Now Serving	D.S.O. M.C. Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 22/6/15 4/1/17 15/5/17 20/5/18 20/12/18	1914 Star & Clasp British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19 : France and Belgium Gen. St. Officer 6th Army Corps, France, 16/1/16 to 17/8/16. Brig. Maj. 64th Inf. Brig., France, 18/8/16 to 13/3/18. Gen. St. Officer 21st Division, France, 14/3/18 to 4/4/19. Brig. Maj. 1st Brig. S. Div., Army on Rhine, 1/5/19 to 9/9/19. Brig. Maj. Zhob Force India, 17/5/20 to 10/8/20. D.A.A.G., India, 15/2/22 to 18/12/23. G.S.O. 2. War Office 22/1/24 to 14/2/26.
LILLINGSTON, E. G. G.	4/7/92	Temp. 2nd Lt. 9/9/14 to 4/8/15 2nd Lt. 4th D. Guards 9/6/15	Temp. Lieut. 5/8/15 to 30/6/17 Lt. 1/11/16 Capt. 17/9/21 To "Greys" as Capt. 2/12/22	Now Serving	Mentioned in Despatches Lon. Gaz. 15/5/17	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1915-19 : France and Belgium

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
CHAPMAN, F. J. P.	27/5/01	23/12/21 14th Hussars To "Greys" 2/12/22		On H.P., ill health 20/8/23 Lon. Gaz. 11/9/23			
WATSON, S. H.	7/5/99	21/12/17 7th Dr. Guards	Lt. 21/6/19 7th D. Gds. To "Greys" as Lt. 2/12/22 Transferred to			British War Medal Vic. Medal Iraq M. and Clasp	France and Belgium 28/8/18 to 11/11/18. Iraq Opera., 19 19-20.
BARKER, G. C.	2/5/96	17/2/15 16th Lrs.	Lt. 1/7/17 Capt. 23/3/20 16th Lancers To "Greys" as Capt. 31/1/23	Retired 6/3/30 Lon. Gaz. 7/3/30	Welsh Guards 24/12/22.	1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	France and Belgium -12/15 to 16/6/16; 21/10/17 to 18/1/18. Inst. in English to French Mil. School 1/10/25 to 29/7/27.
TWISTLETON- WYCHEHAM, Flennes R.	12/11/02	1/2/23	Lt. 1/2/25 Adj. 10/3/30	Now Serving			A.D.C. to Gov. C. in C., Dominion of Canada, 2/11/28.
PATTISON-KNIGHT, D. H.		1/2/23	Lt. 1/2/25	Now Serving			
GUINNESS, H. P.	24/3/02	1/2/23	Lt. 1/2/25	Now Serving			

COOPER, A. R.	17/4/97	16/12/14 1st Dns. and M. G. Corps	To "Greys" as Lt. 11/2/19 Capt. 16/7/23	Retired Pay 5/7/30 Lon. Gaz. 4/7/30 Wounded 11/4/17 and 25/3/18		1914-15 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-21 : France and Belgium 21/11/15 to 20/10/16; 14/12/16 to 13/4/17; 21/10/17 to 13/4/18; 1/6/18 to 3/11/18.
MARTYR, A. G.	26/1/02	30/8/23	Lt. 30/8/25	Now Serving			
HALSWELL, W.	26/8/03	30/8/23	Lt. 30/8/25	Now Serving			
FINDLAY, R. L.	14/7/03	31/1/24	Lt. 31/1/26	Now Serving			
FARQUHAR, Sir P. W. (Bt.)	8/10/14	27/8/24	Lt. 27/8/26	Retd.			Transferred to 16/5th Lancers as Lieut. 8/1/27.
BASKEYLLE-GLEGG, J.	28/7/04	30/8/24	Lt. 30/8/26	Now Serving			
BROCKLEHURST, P. H. P.	17/3/04	30/8/24	Lt. 30/8/26				Died 27/3/30.
LOPES, M. H. E.	4/10/03	4/1/25	Lt. 4/1/27	Now Serving			
MACKESON, H. R.	25/5/05	3/9/25	Lt. 3/9/27	Now Serving			
GRAHAM J. M.	16/12/84	29/5/07 (6th Dns.)	Lt. 2/4/10 Capt. 15/3/15 (6th Dns.) Maj. 15/9/26 To "Greys"	Retired 2/6/29 Lon. Gaz. 1/6/29	M.C.	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-21 : St. Capt. Mesp. Exped. Force 5/2/17 to 29/8/17. Gallipoli 24/6/15 to -1/16. Egypt -1/1/16 to 15/2/16. Mesp. 16/2/16 to 7/10/17.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTS GREYS, 1914-1931

NAME.	Birth.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals	REMARKS.
TROTTER, G. R.	26/2/06	4/2/26	Lt. 4/2/29	Now Serving			
TURNER, R. B.	3/4/07	29/1/27					Died 14/9/29.
BOWLBY, F. E. S.	13/11/04	13/11/25	Lt. 13/11/28	Now Serving			
ANSTRUTHER- GOUGH, Calthorpe R. H.	23/3/08	31/1/29		Now Serving			
PAGET, P. W.	9/12/08	18/2/29		Now Serving			
ELLIOTT, T. Qr. Master	26/10/82	31/12/24		Now Serving	M.B.E.	Belgian War Cross British War Medal Vic. Medal	In Ranks 14 years, 193 days. W.O. Cl. 19 years, 88 days. 1916-19: France and Belgium
MILLER, A. W. D.	14/1/11	29/1/31		Now Serving			

OFFICERS OF SPECIAL RESERVE ALLOTTED TO THE GREYS

NAME.	On prob.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
STEVENSON-REECE, G. M.	On prob.	13/9/13	Lt. 16/10/15 T/Capt. 15/11/16			1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19: France and Belgium
STOOKES, V. A.	On prob.	15/8/14	T/Lt. 1/9/16 Lt. 1/7/17		M.C.	1915 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1915-19: France and Belgium
SPROT, G. C. D.	On prob.	18/9/14	Wounded 5/1/16			1915 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1915-19: France and Belgium
CLARKE, L. C. E.	On prob.	13/4/16	Lt. 28/10/16			British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19: France and Belgium
FARQUHAR, A. McN.	On prob.	19/11/16	Lt. 1/7/17			British War Medal Vic. Medal	1916-19: France and Belgium
MAZE, W. G.	On prob.	2/6/17	Lt. 17/8/18	Wounded	17/10/18	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19: France and Belgium
CLOETE, L. D'U.	On prob.	7/6/17	Lt. 2/11/18	Wounded	21/7/18	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19: France and Belgium

OFFICERS OF SPECIAL RESERVE ALLOTTED TO THE GREYS

NAME.	On prob.	2nd Lt.	Promotions.	Retired.	Honours.	Wars and Medals.	REMARKS.
WORRALL, B.	On prob.	17/4/17	Lt. 17/10/18	Wounded	1/4/18	British War Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19: France and Belgium
PETHERICK, M.	On prob.	24/10/17	Lt. 10/11/18			British War Medal Vic. Medal	1918-19: France and Belgium
HOLDERNESS, L. C.	On prob.		Lt. 5/9/18			British War Medal Vic. Medal	Landed in France 11/11/18
KERSHAW, M.	On prob.	31/8/18				British War Medal Vic. Medal	Landed in France 11/11/18
			ATTACHED.				
EGERTON, Capt. S. W., 7th Lancers					M.C.	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19: France and Belgium
ELLIOTT, Major Rt. Hon. W. C., P.C., M.P., R.A.M.C.					M.C.	1914 Star British War Medal Vic. Medal	1914-19: France and Belgium



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